



Minutes of Annual General Meeting Held on 10th August 2024.

1 Welcome & acknowledgement – David Maunders

2 Attendance: David Maunders, Tom O’Dea, Ruth O’Dea, Pauline Taylor, Bonnie Taylor, Don Johnstone; Di Scukavic; Sue Trist; Graeme Clausen; Linda Patterson; Pam Spencer; John Eddy, Dan Kallstrom; Mark Anderson; Maxine Holden.

3 Apologies:

Irene McKell, Jeffery Alan Cole, Richard and Margaret Farrell, Marcella and Pablo Ziogos, Jan Jonas, Adele Sattout, Craig Jackson, Anne Davie, Clive & Lynda Catlow, Phyl and Ron Ward, Elaine & John Gafford, Kim Johnson, Jim and Elaine Alexander, Kim Storey, Yvonne Lynch, Friends of Coolart, Robyn Holman, Terry Holman, R & M Farrell, Coral Bourke, Ian & Dianne Barlow, C. & D Van Dort, Christine Grayden.

3 Minutes from Previous meetings: General Meeting 4 May, 2024 & AGM 12th August, 2023.
Motion to accept the minutes: Ruth O’Dea, Seconded by Graeme Clausen.

4 Matters Arising from Previous meetings: Nil.

5 President’s Report: David Maunders welcomed Dan Kallstrom & Mark Anderson from NP. Events: The touch screen is working showing an Arthur Evans film. (Currently 1 film but we hope in the future there will be more and visitors can choose which they would like to watch). Kerri Ritchie (Volunteer Co-ordinator, NP) has implemented the system where volunteers can log onto the website and record the hours they volunteer. FOCIS was awarded a Copland Grant which has enabled the Grimwade Foundation to restore, preserve & digitise the Mini Lawrence illustrations. This is progressing well. David said farewell and thank you to Andrea our previous curator & welcomed Maxine Holden the new curator. For the president’s report in detail, please see attached or on the website. Motion to accept the president’s report: Tom O’Dea; Seconded John Eddie.

6 Treasurer’s & Membership Secretary’s Report: Tom O’Dea circulated his report. In summary, we are in good shape financially as we operate within our means and have enough money to continue to invest in projects which meet our mission. We are very concerned however, that memberships are falling and renewal numbers were low this financial year. We have 70 memberships, 43 overdue & 68 lapsed. For details, please see the report attached or on the website. Motion to accept the report: Proposed by Tom O’Dea. Seconded by Graeme Clausen.

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An attendee raised the issue that it was hard for some people to pay memberships online. Tom is dedicated to providing alternatives. He reported that we have 8 online options and 6 options to pay in person &/or members could pay by cheque or money order. There was a suggestion that we could have a committee member visit members and collect cash.

7 PINP Churchill Island's Attraction Manager's report: Peter Officer – Please see website.

8 PINP Curator's report: Maxine introduced herself and told us of her previous experience. She thanked Andrea for her contribution.

Maxine has been working on policies and will place a folder in Ames House volunteer room with a collection of policies and guidelines for our collections. These policies will also be placed on the FOCIS website ([Tom O'Dea to action](#)). These documents will be reviewed every 2 -3 years according to industry standards.

Maxine plans to strengthen the relationship with the National Trust. Many items are in trust to us from the National Trust which is a great privilege. Maxine stated that Churchill Island was not just an entertaining farm but an exquisite heritage house and collection. (also an exquisite garden). Maxine's intention is to bring Ames House and cottage to an improved level of presentation. Marg is the Churchill Island archivist and she and Maxine will be working on the room where the archives are stored and continue cataloguing the archives. There will also be improvements to the guidelines for donations. They will form an acquisitions committee led by the curator and the archivist and include a member from NP & FOCIS. This committee will meet every 3 months. Maxine hopes to provide soundscapes such as the piano playing or the sound of children playing in the nursery to add to the atmosphere in the house and cottage. She hopes to have these installed by the end of this year.

Maxine is currently employed 1 day per week.

The work on the Mini Lawrence sketch book is progressing well and when finished, will need to be housed properly. There has been a suggestion it could be housed off site but Maxine would prefer a purpose built cabinet on the island so visitors can view it.

9. Subscriptions: Tom O'Dea moved that membership subscriptions remain the same for this year. Proposed by Pauline Taylor; Seconded by Don Johnstone.

10 Number of ordinary Committee members: 2 were proposed by David Maunders; Seconded by Tom O'Dea.

11 Appointment of committee members with authority to operate the Society's bank accounts: That the President, Secretary, and Treasurer be authorised to operate the Society's bank accounts, with any two of the three to sign. Proposed by Tom O'Dea; Seconded by Bonnie Taylor. All in favour.

12 Election of Officers and members of the committee: David Maunders resigned from the position of president and asked Mark Anderson to conduct the election. The results appear in the table below:

Position	Nomination	Proposed by	Seconded	Vote in favour	Against	Carried
President	David Maunders	Tom O'Dea	Bonnie Taylor	All	Nil	Unanimous (U)
Vice President	Terry Holman	Ruth O'Dea	Pauline Taylor	All	Nil	U

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Treasurer	Tom O'Dea	Di Scukovic	Don Johnstone	All	Nil	U
Membership Secretary	Tom O'Dea	Pauline Taylor	Di Scukovic	All	Nil	U
Secretary	Bonnie Taylor	David Maunders	Tom O'Dea	All	Nil	U
Minute Secretary	Bonnie Taylor	Tom O'Dea	Pam Spencer	All	Nil	U
Newsletter Editor	Christine Grayden	David Maunders	Di Scukovic	All	Nil	U
Committee Member	Don Johnstone	Pauline Taylor	David Maunders	All	Nil	U
Representative of The Phillip Island Conservation Society	Pauline Taylor	Ruth O'Dea	Graeme Clausen	All	Nil	U

13 Appointment of Auditor: Tom O'Dea moved that we appoint Ray Barker as honorary auditor. Seconded by Pauline Taylor.

Guest Speaker: Mark Anderson – General Manager Tourism

Mark began by telling us that he used to work for the National Trust in the UK which has 4.2 million members. He loved the diversity of how they defined heritage and how they brought it to life for visitors.

Mark is the General Manager for tourism across the whole of Phillip Island. He stated that Churchill Island (CI) has seen a 13% increase in visitation over the last year. The Penguin Parade a 30% increase and the Koalas a 12% increase. We are back to pre-Covid numbers. CI had over 1 million visitors over the last year. International visitors have increased by 71% (now at pre Covid numbers).

When asked for feedback, 63% of visitors to Nature Parks say they go to see the wildlife and nature and give a satisfaction score of 4.55/5.

On CI the experiences which rated positively were the activities with the sheep, dogs, farm animals & wildlife and the history & "set up of buildings", the walks and scenery. The retail experience and cafes also rated well for customer satisfaction.

The Easter activities were very successful.

An attendee raised the issue that NP does not allow cash payment for anything (tickets, food, souvenirs, etc). She felt it discriminates against children & the elderly. Mark explained that there are serious issues with the use of cash such as using armoured vehicles to collect it at the end of the day and the added danger for staff from robbery/assault if cash was used and kept on the premises. NP does not intend to change their policy to include cash in the future.

Mark listed the many works which have been undertaken to ensure the protection of heritage items. These included restoration work on the Amess house, the Amess barn, the laundry, the cellar & the Rogers kitchen & cottage. Overall Mark expects works to be complete by the end of August.

Mark thanked FOCIS for our care and dedication and said he was a big believer in respecting the past in creating the future.

Thank you very much Mark for an interesting and informative presentation.

The meeting closed at 4pm.

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