



P.O. BOX 852
COWES VIC 3922

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

The Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 10TH AUGUST, 2019, 1.30 P.M. AT
CHURCHILL ISLAND FUNCTION ROOM, CHURCHILL ISLAND

AGENDA:

1. Welcome and acknowledgement of traditional custodians the Bunurong/Boonwurrung.
2. Present: David Maunders, Christine Grayden, Jeff Cole, Tom O'Dea, Ruth O'Dea, Pauline Taylor, Graeme Clausen, Peter Brookes, John Eddy, Terry Holman, Di Scukovic, Jan Jonas, Robyn Holman, John Ballantyne, Gaye Cleeland
3. Apologies: John & Diane Baird, Anne Davie, Marianne Cassar, Coral Bourke, Christine Tompkins, Roger & Sue Hollingworth, Rebecca Sanders, Ray Leivers, Lynne & David Lumsden, Margaret Hunter
4. The business of the meeting was preceded by a presentation by PINP CEO Catherine Basterfield (and her daughter Isla) to David Maunders upon his retirement today as president after four years in the role. Catherine said she wished to give David a huge thank you for being such a champion for Churchill Island and a catalyst for so many worthwhile projects over the four years. Greeted with acclamation from those present.
5. PINP Visitor Experience Manager Kate Adam's report. Read by Christine.

Penguin Parade

The new Penguin Parade building has been launched with a number of activities:

- it was seen first by staff, volunteers and community groups on Friday 19th July with a sneak preview event.
- A Gala event was held on Tues 23rd July with State and Local government, industry members and other guests.
- The building was officially opened by the Minister for the Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Victoria's Premier, and local member for Bass on Thursday 26 July with a good crowd to kick off operations in the new centre that evening. It will take a few weeks to get all things running smoothly but we're very happy with how things are going so far.
- we'll have an Open Day for community in October once all the interpretations are completed.

New Nature Parks offices

We've moved to our two new offices in Cowes and at the Koala Reserve and staff are adjusting to many changes as part of moving to Activity Based Working model across all sites.

MOU and RAP

The Memorandum of Understanding with Bunurong Land Council was approved as part of National Reconciliation Week with a great event at the Koala Reserve, with over 100 people in attendance, we also launched our third Reconciliation Action Plan on the day. Both documents

will support Nature Parks to work closely with the Land Council, traditional custodians and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to achieve the actions outlined in the plan.

Conservation milestones

On the 3rd March we launched our 30 year Conservation Vision and 5 year Conservation Plan. These plans express our bold conservation aspirations for the Nature Parks as a place offering an enhanced, authentic and diverse visitor experience founded on the highest conservation principles and informed by scientific research. We're proud of the new directions outlined, including combining our research and environment programs under the one banner of conservation, adapting to challenges such as climate change and our commitment to playing a strong role in protecting native threatened species to create an Island Haven that is a key model for Victoria and Australia.

Annual Report 18-19

We're working on the Annual Report for 2018-19 which will provide an overview of the achievements as well as our annual visitation. It will be available on our website.

Churchill Island update

- The post and rail fence along the top paddock is almost complete. This will support livestock management and provide safe viewing of livestock for visitors.
 - We've repurposed several water tanks from the KCC and education pods which will now support sustainable water supply for the farm.
 - The interps for the Shearing Shed will soon be installed with panels currently being produced.
 - The Machinery Shed Interps project is progressing and we appreciate the support and input from Christine and Jeff in developing the content for the signs including great stories for the machines that are linked to the island's heritage.
 - Installation of new interps in the visitor centre will take place over August including display cabinets for exhibiting items in the heritage collection. This will allow us to showcase objects and characters that are part of the islands history. Sam Mather is currently working on the themes for the displays.
 - Welcome, wayfinding and regulatory signs have been installed with the new PINP brand giving the site a new look.
6. Minutes from Previous General Meeting held Saturday 11th May, 2019 and previous AGM held Saturday 18th August 2018.
Moved Jeff Cole/seconded Graeme Clauscen. *Carried.*
 7. Matters arising from previous General and AGM Meetings - Nil.
 8. Annual reports from Executive Committee:

a) President's Report.

As you are aware, I have decided to retire as FOCIS president. I have served four years in this role and prior to that, I served four years as newsletter editor.

For my final report, I have reflected on what we have achieved in that time.

We organised a strategic planning day which provided a sense of direction and objectives. In relation to that, I initiated a series of meetings with the PINP CEO, firstly Matthew Jackson, then Catherine Basterfield. These meetings have continued with Kate Adams as Churchill Island manager. From these meetings, the Historic Farm Machinery project emerged, an idea proposed by Christine when she became curator. Tom's success in achieving DGR status encouraged us to apply for grant funding with success in the case of the shire community fund. However, the project has taken longer than expected and has changed in form, which I have found frustrating.

One quickly achieved project was the acquisition of a model of the Lady Nelson. The idea came from a visit to Warrnambool and Christine tracked down the model maker David Lumsden, who provided us with a first rate model.

I have been privileged to represent FOCIS at receptions with the Governor of Victoria, Governor General of Australia, Museums Australia Victoria conference and PINP events.

With my enthusiasm lessening and patience with negotiating reduced, it is time to move on. I will continue as a member and contribute to working bees. I also will continue as a volunteer guide albeit a little less often than in the past. Thank you for supporting me as your president and all good wishes to my successor.

b) Treasurer's Report - Tom O'Dea. Tom took members through the annual treasurer's report pointing out highlights. Our term deposit which matures on 20/8 will be rolled over. The Heritage Fund received \$3,497.39 for the year which was mainly donations. \$1509 from the donations box in Amess House; \$2,100 was raised for the farm machinery signage.

c) Membership Secretary's Report - Tom O'Dea. Tom reported that our membership for the year fell from 166 to 138 with our total individual members being 250.

Both reports moved Tom/seconded Terry Holman *Carried*.

9. Appointment of Auditor. Tom reported that we have been paying for an auditor but that a friend of his has offered to audit the books for free. "That Ray Barker be appointed as auditor" Moved Tom/seconded Jeff Cole *Carried*.

10. Determine annual subscriptions taking into account recommendation from the Executive Committee, which was "that subscription amounts remain the same at \$30 per family household; \$20 per single adult household; and \$15 per concession household." Moved Tom/seconded Pauline Taylor *Carried*.

11. Curator's Report from Samantha Mather, read by Christine

Having only taken on the Curator role fairly recently, I will start firstly by introducing myself to those who have not met me yet. I do apologize for not being there to do so in person. I grew up on the other side of the bay, in Torquay, and went to school in Geelong, at The Geelong College. I believe it was there that first sparked my interest in history and museum studies, as I was always so fascinated by the rich history of the school, its beautiful historic buildings, and the tremendous archive of photographs dating back to the late 19th century. I always loved visiting museums and galleries on the weekends and began learning about museum and gallery practices in years eleven and twelve, through studying a "Studio Arts" subject as part of my VCE.

After completing high school in 2010, I began studying a Bachelor of Archaeology at La Trobe University. Halfway through this, I transferred to the University of New England, where I studied a Bachelor of Science, and majored in Archaeology and Palaeoanthropology. During my last year of this course I completed a study abroad program at Stirling University in Scotland, where I studied Jacobite History. Upon my return I diversified in my studies slightly and enrolled in a Graduate Diploma in Forensic Science with University of Canberra, to satisfy my interest in Forensic Archaeology. Studying this course helped me to confirm that I did not want to pursue a career in forensics, and I found my thoughts returning again to a career in the museum industry, especially following trips abroad, where I found myself drawn to museums and historic sites all over Europe and the UK. At the beginning of 2019, I enrolled in a Graduate Diploma of Museum Studies, which I study online through Deakin University. Through this, I came across an advertisement for a Museum Curator Internship at Churchill Island, which I immediately applied for, and was fortunately offered the position. I worked alongside the previous Curator, Melissa Hayes, from January until her resignation at the end of June, and then, to my absolute delight, I was offered the Curator position as a six month back-fill contract.

Since beginning the role at the start of July, my priorities have mainly been centred around familiarizing myself with the collection, the items on loan from The National Trust, the Disaster Preparedness Plan, and cleaning schedules. I have developed a cleaning schedule for all the textiles on the property and completed an inventory and assessment of each item on the National Trust loan list. I am also in the process of developing a plan for the display of our new cabinets, to be placed in the Visitor Centre following the completion of the proposed redecoration.

Furthermore, I have removed the mannequins from the dining room in response to requests from Visitor Experience Volunteers for a more comfortable and well lit area to sit while in costume. I have replaced the mannequins with a Bentwood rocking chair, which was donated by the Churchill Island Volunteer Group. I am currently researching alternative ways to display the costumes, which will hopefully take up less space. The farm machinery shed project has been on hold for a little while following Melissa's resignation however this week I had a meeting with David Maunders and Ailsa Batey regarding the placement of signage and arrangement of the machinery, and I believe Ailsa will soon complete her draft plan of signage and interpretation. I am hopeful that the project will be completed soon.

Projects that I have set my sights on next involve researching new ways of engaging visitors and volunteers. I have been toying with the idea of creating a treasure hunt or "Spotto" to help children learn about the island's history and perhaps also a virtual tour complete with audio and video that visitors could access from their smartphones, if they would like further information.

Our wonderful volunteer Lin Starke who was working on sorting through and recording the photographs has now left us as she has moved out of the area. She has sorted almost

five thousand photographs, a mammoth job that has been very well done. The next step is to record each photograph on Victorian Collections, which will also be a huge task. Once I have sourced a scanner and a laptop or tablet for the Volunteer Hut I will see if some of the volunteers would like to assist with this project. I would like to thank you all for your continued support. I would also like to congratulate the next elected President as well as wish David all the best in his future ventures. I hope that you will continue to visit Churchill Island and volunteer when you can.

Christine moved a vote of thanks for David for his dynamic leadership in the president's role. Seconded by John Eddy and carried with acclamation.

David then vacated the chair and left the meeting due to a previous engagement. John Eddy took the chair.

12. Election of Members of the Executive Committee:

President - Graeme Clauscen was the only nomination and declared elected
Vice President - Terry Holman was the only nomination and declared elected
Secretary - Christine Grayden was the only nomination and declared elected
Treasurer - Tom O'Dea was the only nomination and declared elected
Membership Secretary - Tom O'Dea as the only nomination and declared elected
Newsletter Editor - Jeff Cole was the only nomination and declared elected
Phillip Island & District Historical Society Inc representative - TBC
Friends of Koalas Inc representative -TBC
Phillip Island Conservation Society Inc representative - Pauline Taylor was the only nomination and declared elected
Graeme Clauscen took the chair

13. Appointment of committee members with authority to operate the Society's bank accounts. "That the President, Secretary and Treasurer be signatories to the accounts; that Graeme Clauscen be added as a signatory; and that David Maunders be removed." moved Tom O'Dea/seconded Terry Holman *Carried*

14. General Business - Nil

15. Guest speaker: Tom Nixon, Endangered Species Officer, PINP, giving us an update.

16. Close and afternoon tea. 3.20 p.m.

17. Next General Meeting: Saturday 9th November 2019