

NEWSLETTER

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DATES: 2023

June 10
 10am -12pm Working Bee

August 12
 1:30pm AGM

October 14
 10-12pm Working Bee

November 18
 1:30pm General Meeting

MEMORIES OF CARROLL AND AMY SCHULZ

At our general meeting on 13 May, we were pleased to welcome Jack and Juneen Schulz, son and daughter-in-law of Carroll and Amy Schulz. Carroll was the first Churchill Island ranger appointed by the Victorian Conservation Trust, to which the government handed the management of Churchill Island when it bought the island in 1976.

Carroll was involved in the foundation of FOCIS and depended on its members to manage visitors and to undertake restoration work on the island. He was FOCIS secretary until the mid 1990s. Carroll and Amy lived on the island after a house was built (the farm manager's house) . Jack and Juneen were just married at the time of Carroll's appointment and so did not live on the island but their two older children spent considerable time there and Jack read out their recorded memories.



Jack and Juneen have donated to the Churchill Island museum, some of their parents' photographs and letters which now are in the archive. After the meeting, Jack wrote:

Both Juneen and myself had a good day returning to C.I. once again and thoroughly enjoyed sharing our family's memories with you all. We are immensely proud of my parents, Carroll and Amy's contribution to what is Churchill Island and FOCIS today. We were also very impressed by the professionalism and dedication showed by you all attending the AGM.

My Dad Carroll would have been so proud of you all keeping the FOCIS flag flying!! Keep up the good work

NEW FOCIS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We were pleased to welcome Cecily Woodberry and Bonnie Taylor to their first meeting after accepting the positions of General Secretary and Minutes Secretary.



Cecily started her involvement with FOCIS by presenting the Carol Singers last Christmas and she has been involved in finding a playable piano for the Amess House. Bonnie did excellent work over Easter by promoting our fund raising campaign. We welcome them both.

PIANO ARRIVAL

The drawing piano, an historic instrument made in Melbourne in the late 19th century, was assessed as too expensive to restore to playable condition. FOCIS was donated a playable piano by Lois Wenham, a Phillip Island resident. This piano had been in her family's possession since 1920 when her grandfather bought it for the Horsham family farm. It was made by Georg Schwechten in Berlin. David Kett moved the piano to Churchill Island and tuned it. It is now located in the Amess House dining room which accords space for players and listeners.



After our meeting on 13 May, the piano was formally "launched". Unfortunately, Lois was unable to attend as she was recovering from the virus, but Kate Cleeland and Liz Hayes played to the delight of those present. The reel of Liz playing the Entertainer had over 700 views in the following week. We are inviting volunteers to sign in for a playing session. If you are already enrolled as a Churchill Island volunteer, you can sign in for a piano player session on MyImpact. New volunteers should fill out the ongoing application form:

<https://app.betterimpact.com/Application?OrganizationId=0&OrganizationGuid=3a9a5571-86e9-4248-8cee-fec8ffbd3808&EnterpriseId=0&ApplicationFormNumber=1&UserId=0&OrganizationMemberId=0&HasAgreedToPolicy=False&HasEnterprise=False&HasActivity=False>

Volunteers should have a Working with Children card and check in with Chloe Dann (cdann@penguins.org.au) at Churchill Island for their first session.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



On 30 March, FOCIS gave a tour of the historic precinct to members of the PI Nature Park Board and management team. About 30 attended and I was grateful for the support of Don, Karen, Jeff, Brian and Robyn in making the tour a success.

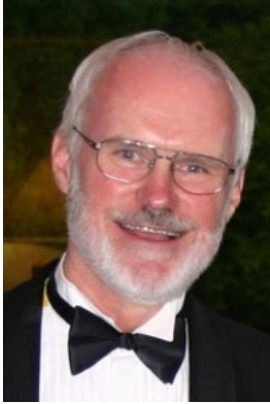
Peta Wittig agreed that Nature Park would provide a screen for the visitors' centre in the 2023-4 Budget. FOCIS committee agreed to fund further editing for the Evans films and Terry Melvin agreed to undertake the editing. Unfortunately, his recent illness may delay this but the screen will not be in place until the end of the year.

Terry Holman (VP) has been our contact for the Kids as Catalysts project with Newhaven Primary School. This will include a morning tea for aged care residents.

Community day will be on Sunday 10 September. Cecily and I met Sarah Hain the organiser. FOCIS will have a table in the visitors' centre meeting room to attract new members. Cecily is arranging the Phoenix Choir to sing in the Amess House and in the afternoon for the Island Harmony Choir to sing in the Shearing Shed.

Following information from Kate Adams, who is responsible for the PINP Reconciliation Action Plan, I have been able to book to attend the Bass Coast Reconciliation Forum to be held in Inverloch on Friday 2 June.

TREASURER'S REPORT



Our overall balance is down \$19,890 as a result of the purchase of Charlie the Clydesdale, acquiring the piano and related matters. This was taken from both the Heritage Fund and the Operating Fund. The balance of the Heritage Fund stands at \$5777.58 and the Operating Fund at \$13,746. We still have the Museum Reserve fund of \$40,862 invested. Membership has increased to 259 paying members.

Tom O'Dea

PETE OFFICER'S REPORT



G'Day Focis Members

Just a short report this time around. Mainly to let you know that Easter was a big success at Churchill Island! There were lots of activities on offer and it was great to see so many volunteers out and about. This was particularly pleasing as the weather was extremely wet and cold. It was also fantastic to see the introduction of horse and wagon rides. They were very popular with visitors.

Speaking of horse, I would like to also introduce our new farm assistant Peter X.



Peter has had twenty plus years of experiences with Clydesdales and he has had Charlie doing some introduction work with farm machinery. It's also very pleasing to see our restoration team continue to move forward on their many projects. We thank the efforts of all our volunteers and FOCIS who contribute so much to Churchill Island.

Pete

CURATOR'S REPORT



Dear FOCIS members

It's great to see the new signs up on Amess House and Rogers Cottage. The new signs replace the previous material banners and reflect current Churchill Island 'Time Unwinds' branding and the FOCIS logo. We've also been very fortunate to receive the donation of a beautiful century old piano from Lois Wenham that will mean that live music can become part of the ambience of Amess House. Special thanks to David Maunders and

Peter Officer in working through the logistics of the arrival of the piano onto Churchill Island.

In my last report, I let FOCIS members know that the Minnie Lawrence sketchbook was being assessed by the paper conservator at the Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation (University of Melbourne). We have since received a quote and look forward to working through possible funding options.



Child playing the piano from the Minnie Lawrence sketch book.

Overall collections management continues as we work through putting new tags on our collection items and assigning registration numbers to objects that have no numbers. We have started working through objects in the Drawing Room of Amess House. We've also been cleaning up the Volly Hut to create some more space to store our archival material and boxes.

Finally, I also would like to send our thanks to Kate Wills who was our wonderful horticulturalist for the past seven years as she moves on to the next stage of her career. Kate was always passionate about the history and heritage of our beautiful island and a great support whenever help was needed.

With thanks, Andrea

AMAGA TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Andrea has been successful in arranging an opportunity for 5 days of training to be run by the Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMaGA) Victoria.

The dates are listed below and the training will be held onsite at Churchill Island.

Participants will receive hands on training in collections care and digitisation, and an intensive workshop on Collection Care and Preventative

Conservations covering environmental monitoring, cleaning, condition reporting and conservation planning.

Session 1: 10-12th July (9am to 4pm each day)

Day 1 - Intro to project and basics to collection care and handling

Day 2 - Digitisation training and practical hands on digitisation of collections (this involves learning to photograph objects)

Day 3 - Collection Care and Preventative Conservations

Session 2: 31st July - 2nd August (9am to 4pm)

Day 1 - Assessment of progress of digitisation and refresher on basics

Day 2 - Practical hands-on digitisation of collection

Day 3 - Public Digitisation Day (note: this is for other organisation to participate in)

If you have any questions or you are interested in participating, please contact Andrea Cleland, Museum Curator, Phillip Island Nature Parks: acleland@penguins.org.au

RESTORATION REPORT



The cannon has been dismantled and the parts put under cover for rebuilding/restoration.

The actual gun carriage is in the barn where the new one is being built under the leadership of Brian. It's metal fittings are in fair

shape and I think are possibly original. Some of the ring bolt anchors for the recoil system are cast with threads, some are just spikes. The metal of these is of such a quality that they only have surface rust. The platform and the barrel are in the big open fronted shed in the works yard.

I have taken the ramrod home to make a replica, and a shot cup and sponge rod as well.

I am building three new pulleys, part of the recoil mechanism, we already have one. I have already given CI suitable cable for the job.

The blacksmith also is a wood turner and will make a couple of stoppers for the muzzle which will be fixed in place using now blocked up holes already extant. The CI branding iron will be used on the stoppers.



blacksmith will build a dummy for the gun. The woodwork will be painted white with a marine grade two part epoxy after all cracks are filled with similarly based materials.

I am also talking to the Navy re the blacking they once used to stop guns rusting at sea. But I think a more modern coating yet to be determined would be more suitable.



Vintage perforated tin has been acquired to finish the restoration of the Coolgardie safe, the scullery food cupboard and the screens on the Half Cellar gable windows.

The platform will need to be rebuilt and we think there is enough suitable timber in the shed to build one. If the wooden wheels are no good, I will see if we can find a set of old iron trolley wheels that suit. I have an idea where I can find some.

The recoil slide is a mass of rot and will be built new. Its wheels are metal and should be OK.

We have yet to determine the state of gun pivot hardware but there is a piece of cast iron pipe in the shed that may be suitable. The gun has surface rust underneath which does not seem in too bad, but the polished finish may not be able to be restored.

The trunnions are a different matter and some cast metal is cracking away. I am talking to a specialist group in Britain that maintains old cannons on the Channel coast, and I will be consulting the West Australian Museum who have much expertise in this field as to the best way to approach the problem.

The firing mechanism I have found was flintlock, and I have a picture of one and with the aid of the

The dray is finished, a bit over finished really, and will be moved into the shed below the shearing shed for the worst of the winter.

A new project is a newly acquired 100 year old seeder which is complete and will be restored by Tim in the old working barn beside the smithy possibly to working condition.

Jeff Cole for the Restoration Team.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY



8/2/23

The Bush Stone Curlew 10 year re-establishment program is progressing for Phillip Island and 3 other locations. Nature Parks is working with the ANU for this. The birds may be released later this year on Phillip Island, depending on the progress of raising the chicks, which have a high mortality rate. We did a 'walk-around' and visited an enclosure where the Curlews are being cared for.

10/5/23

Nature Parks are reporting visitor attendance at Penguin viewing is up to 75 % of pre-Covid numbers, which is above projected numbers.

Conservation News will be shared on-line, quarterly (by Nature Parks) to those who register to receive them. Go to the PINP website to subscribe at penguins.org.au, to get news behind the scenes, about projects and research updates.

Shearwater departures went well this year with an increased number of homes and businesses in the flight path area engaging with the project to turn out their lights on the relevant nights. All the birds have fledged now with the last ones going on the big winds about a week ago.

Community Open Day for locals to visit the PINP sites will be on Sunday September 10. This is the annual special day to say 'thankyou' to all the local supporters. Free tickets for locals to visit the Penguins are available on application for the Sunday and Monday nights of that weekend.

Bass Coast Shire rep stated and discussed a Significant Tree project in progress at present for locals to submit to. Go to the Shire of Bass Coast website and submit details and photo of your significant tree for consideration.

Point of interest: Blue carbon relates to carbon captured by the world's oceans and coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, tidal marshes and sea grasses. Recent studies have established that Westernport contains approximately 1/3 of Victoria's blue carbon.

A presentation was made by a recent new member of the Nature Parks team, Simon Heislars, who has a broad experience in Conservation and is working to establish the future proofing of the Little Penguins and other wildlife on Summerlands against heat wave events, reducing the risk of bushfire in their habitat, whilst making it cooler and less flammable. If you notice changes in remodelling of the landscape on Summerland Peninsular it will be as part of the outworking of this plan for their protection.

Robyn Holman, FOCIS Representative.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The end of the financial year approaches. Time to renew your membership before 30 June. Membership charges for 2023-4 are as follows:

Family household \$33
single adult household \$22
concession household \$17.

FOCIS Member Benefits Unlimited entry to Churchill Island during normal operating hours on presentation of current membership card. (Free entry does not apply for Churchill Island event days) Discount at the Churchill Island Café (excluding liquor). Regular issues of the FOCIS Newsletter at the start of each season. Invitations to FOCIS special events.

The QR code below will connect to membership renewal.



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

David Maunders, FOCIS President, will be representing the Society at the Bass Coast Reconciliation Forum at Inverloch on 2 June. This is part of National Reconciliation Week 27 May to 3 June.

What's the significance of 27 May and 3 June? 27 May marks the anniversary of the 1967 referendum when Australians voted to remove clauses in the Australian Constitution that discriminated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. 3 June marks the historic 1992 Mabo decision in which the High Court of Australia recognised native title—the recognition that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights over their lands did survive British colonisation. The day before National Reconciliation Week, 26 May, is National Sorry Day, which was first held in Sydney in 1998 and is now commemorated nationally to remember and honour the Stolen Generations.

What is reconciliation in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples? At its heart, reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples, for the benefit of all Australians. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Australia's colonial history is characterised by devastating land dispossession, violence, and racism. Over the last half century, however, many significant steps towards reconciliation have been taken. Reconciliation is an ongoing journey that reminds us that while generations of Australians have fought hard for meaningful change, future gains are likely to take just as much, if not more, effort. Why is National Reconciliation Week important? National Reconciliation Week provides a focus for working towards our goal of a just equitable and reconciled Australia.

National Reconciliation Week is an ideal time for organisations, schools, universities, community groups and workplaces to advance understanding of reconciliation within their own places and their own lives. National Reconciliation Week provides a focus for working towards our goal of a just, equitable and reconciled Australia. It began as a Week of Prayer for Reconciliation in 1993, supported by Australia's major religious groups. Three years later it evolved into National Reconciliation Week under the guidance of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation (now Reconciliation Australia).

Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc.

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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live