

Coochiemudlo Island Historical Society Inc.

Annual General Meeting

11.00 am 20 October 2013, held at the Community Hall

MINUTES

Attendance (22): David Paxton (President), Denise Preston (Vice President), Keith Stebbins (Secretary), Daveen O'Pray (Treasurer), Brian Aitken (Committee), Naomi Judd, Des Binstead, Ellen Paxton, Keith Slack, Margaret Walker, Annette and Bob Drennan, Chris Leonard, Denise Burns, Rae and Peter Wear, Margrit and Dennis Lack, Heather Patrick, Patricia Screen, Ruby and Jeremy Sanders.

By invitation (8): Catherine Brouwer, Lance and Sheena Hewlett, Rick Thomassen and Cecily Dean. Roland Stebbins, Mary Preston, Gwen Bryant (Progress Association)

Apologies (25): Jacqui Cresswell, Viv and Denise Wright, Norma and Bruce Green, Ivan and Anne Holm, Michael Gourlay, Rachael Krinks, Robyn Dixon, Graeme and Vivienne Roberts-Thomson, Carolyn Brammer and Lindsay Duncan, Christine Leonard, Annie Jamison, Peter and Gail Webb, Peter and Ronnie James, Andrew McLellan, David Morgan, Elizabeth Sharp, Marguerite and Bruce James.

Adopted: Ellen Paxton/Denise Preston

1. **Welcome:** David acknowledged the traditional landowners, and welcomed the guests to the meeting. He welcomed Catherine Brouwer our guest speaker and Lance and Sheena Hewlett our Redland's Councillor, Rick and Cecily Thomason from Redlands Museum and Roland Stebbins from Caloundra. **Adopted**
2. **Confirmation of previous minutes:** The minutes of the AGM 26 August 2012 were adopted (Margaret Walker/Des Binstead) **Adopted**
3. **President's Report:** David Paxton's report is attached. The report was adopted (Daveen O'Pray /Margrit Lack) **Adopted with acclamation**
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Daveen O'Pray's report is attached. The report was adopted (Annette Brennan/Brian Aitken). **Adopted with acclamation**
5. **Election of Management Committee:** Lance Hewlett Councillor, conducted the elections. He advised that the following nominees had accepted nomination and were duly elected: **Acclamation**
President: David Paxton
Vice President: Denise Preston
Treasurer: Daveen O'Pray
Secretary: Keith Stebbins
Committee Members: Vivienne Roberts-Thomson, Brian Aitken, MBE
6. **Close of meeting:** David Paxton welcomed and thanked members of the new Committee. He thanked members and guests for their attendance, and closed the meeting at 11.30 am.
7. **Guest Speaker:** David welcomed Catherine Brouwer, the guest speaker. Catherine is Principal of Catherine Brouwer Landscape

architects. She spoke on Landscape Character, Heritage and Historical Landscape Values that could possibly apply to Coochiemudlo Island:

- a. She spoke of her delightful visits to Coochiemudlo Island in the 1970s. During her recent visit she enjoyed seeing curlews by the jetty and was pleased that Coochiemudlo has continued to be a supportive habitat for birds such as the stone curlews.
- b. She spoke of the impact of the ever-changing population on the island with different expectations in terms of ferry and barge services; roads; sewerage; water views; etc. She also spoke of the problem of a lack of lee-ways for natural disasters such as storms.
- c. The qualities that Catherine suggested that could be part of any heritage submission were the Emerald Fringe, the beaches, the natural habitat, the island birds, the history of the early farmers, the fishermen, the island tracks, and the various island identities that have caused a strong attachment to place.
- d. Catherine posed the question: How to retain and manage the qualities of Coochiemudlo? What local customs, landscape values, historical values to the current time and future, what do the individuals resident on the island want to preserve for the future?
- e. Catherine showed photos and spoke of the work her company has carried out at:
 - a. **Castle Hill in Townsville** with the tracks, road, natural beauty, leading to Castle Hill being placed on the Queensland Heritage Register Map,
 - b. **The town of 1770**, which has also been entered on the Queensland Heritage Register. The submission included landscape approaches, camping sites, natural landscapes, and the foreshore parks.
 - c. **Point Lookout Foreshore** is another area that has been entered on the QHR. Catherine recommended reading documents that have led to the formation of QHR sites. i.e. a description of the natural landscape qualities, the landscape themes of appreciating/valuing the landscape.
 - d. **Bankfoot House Grounds** at the Glasshouse Mountains was another landmark place that was an old stagepost site on Old Gympie Road. This site links Tibrogagen Glasshouse mountain to the historic property.
 - e. Another project was the **Gold Coast Historical Landscapes**: Looking for the stories associated with place. E.g. Alex Griffiths feeding lorikeets; sand mining by Naumann Bros. Elanora Pines was another site that is listed for preservation with its pines and trees on the ridge. Robina Burleigh and surfing are

Acclamation

part of the Gold Coast heritage. The surfing waves are part of the Gold Coast heritage. The Melaleuca coastal woodland in the conservation park is also part of the heritage. The walking track along the ridge has also been identified for listing and preservation. Green Heart is another conservation area. NB. Much of this would also be appropriate for Coochiemudlo.

- f. **Bribie Island** also offers a similar example of heritage listing. The Bribie Island problems can be of value to Coochiemudlo. Catherine spoke of the importance of the stories on Coochiemudlo.

Catherine identified the following factors to be considered:

- f. **Landscape setting:** the area around a place which may include the visual catchment. Here on Coochiemudlo the Emerald Fringe, the water routes to Victoria Point should be considered for Heritage listing.
- g. **An information and assessment record sheet** is needed for assessing the potential for a site for QHR. i.e. Historical Land uses; historical evidence; features; Historical Routes - through or associated with; Intangible/Invisible History – mining tree cutting; surfing; etc.
- h. **Criteria** can be historical, environmental or social. The criteria forms to be completed examine the intactness; integrity; community identification; aesthetic quality, prominence/recognition; and symbolism of a site.

David thanked Catherine for her talk and spoke of the relevance of her experience for Coochiemudlo and the difficulties of having the Coochiemudlo Island Historical Society being listed on the Redlands Council Register which is currently closed.

Margaret Walker asked when the State Heritage Act was enacted. Catherine advised that it was introduced in 1992 and is on the web. Denise Preston gave a small gift to Catherine in appreciation for her talk.

David thanked Lance Hewlett for the loan of the projector. He also thanked Gwen Bryant of the Progress Association for the use of the amplifier.

Lunch prepared by the Coochiemudlo Kiosk was then enjoyed by Members and guests.

David Paxton
President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT to AGM 20 October 2013

The Committee has met formally 7 times. Members are Keith Stebbins (Secretary), Daveen O'Pray (Treasurer), Denise Preston (Vice President) and Vivienne Roberts-Thomson and new member Brian Aitken MBE this year. Peter Wear retired from the Committee to help out the Progress Association. Membership is healthy, and during the year we welcomed 9 new Members and 5 families became Life Members.

Sadly the year marked the passing of Di Binstead, Trevor Gillham, Laurie Burns and Lorraine Doheny. Di and Trevor were much loved stalwarts, Laurie was a Foundation Life Member and Lorraine was not a member but was heavily involved in Island affairs, including the Bicentenary. She was related to Matthew Flinders. John Sinclair who spoke at our last AGM is not well.

Plans to hold a seminar, the proceedings of which would become Volume III of the *Chronicles of Coochiemudlo*, were put on hold while other avenues for publication were explored in this digital era.

The Ted Jones Astronomy Club was formed within the Recreation Club and Tim Napier-Munn (and his wife Georgie) visited the island with an 8 inch telescope. The weather was inclement and star gazing less than satisfactory, but a link with the Astronomy Association of Queensland has been formed and, if we affiliate, we can borrow equipment.

The Society joined the Queensland Heritage Council. The Society liaised with Redland City Council (RCC) to have some sites entered in the RCC Heritage Register, with little progress to report.

Historical collections were received from Bob Last (publications), Margaret Walker (timber getting to be made into a sculpture), Joan Bland (written recollections and photographs), Norma Green (1999 Bicentennial photographs and medal), Peter Webb (photographs of Opera on the Bay and the Flinders Week dinner dance), and Denise Foley-Burns donated a Tilley petrol powered iron. Ten copies of *Bananas, Bullfrogs and Boarding School* were purchased from Marie-Louise Potter to sell at markets.

The Society helped with the creation of Coochiemudlo Coastcare by becoming in 2012 a temporary member of SEQ Catchments to enable start-up funding to be paid. Early 2013 was characterised by bad weather, especially due to ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald which severely damaged much of the coast, including the Island. The launch of Coochiemudlo Coastcare was postponed to Flinders Birthday, which impacted on our plans for a fund raising musical evening. Instead the Society hosted a dinner dance to start Flinders Week, which was fully supported by 70 attendees but suffered from high over-heads, losing \$20. However the raffle was successful in raising funds, the main prize being a framed print of the Brisbane Street Plan in 1882. The Committee is to be congratulated on the organisation of the dinner dance with a Navy theme of red, white and blue. We shall liaise with the new committees of the various groups on the Island, as to whether we should claim the date as an annual event.

The Society liaised with RCC concerning erosion in the south-west, where Red Rock and the Morton's jetty embankment are being under-mined.

We began evening talks with a very interesting illustrated talk and photographs by Keith Stebbins, who attended an ballet festival in Cuba. I am slated to give the next talk. The Society also guided a number of bus and walking tours of the Island, receiving generous donations from the visitors. We have begun arranging small craft markets at the History Room for them to purchase souvenirs. These guided tours seem to be increasing in popularity as the Island is easily accessed and self-contained. Cross Country Tours is the main

commercial operator but others have included Forest Lakes Fellowship, TAFE, and RCC volunteers, with bookings extending to February 2014.

The Society obtained a welcome RCC Councillor's Grant for archival equipment. This equipment is helping us to get some order in the collections of documents and photographs. The Society purchased an approximately 200 year-old marine brass sextant, manufactured in Bristol. This was a major purchase (\$890) but also a marvellous opportunity to authenticate Flinders' landing re-enactments, and the sextant was used on Flinders Day 21 July 2013. The Society digitalised Joan Bland's (née Morton) recollections *Footprints on My Coochie* as a booklet with about 50 photographs. We applied for a History Queensland grant to share the costs of printing. The application was approved in principle at the History Queensland AGM in Caloundra (which the Society attended) but under possibly unacceptable conditions. Joan and Tom Bland kindly made a donation of \$100 to the Society. The Society also arranged for them to attend a People of the Redlands presentation by Leonie Taylor (RCC Library). Joan thoroughly enjoyed herself.

The Society now holds some 90 books, many of which would be difficult to obtain now. All are on our assets register. Our Flinders Day dinghy 'True' safely housed in Margaret Saunders' garage which we appreciate very much.

Significant visitors during the year were Ken Turner and Len Malcolmson. Ken and his wife lived in the ex-Morton house and ran the downstairs shop/garage and the cabins, when Doug Morton sold his southern holdings to Bob Durston in about 1965. Ken operated the shop until 1967 and was able to provide interesting information on that period. Len jumped ship in Brisbane and spent 1949 on Coochiemudlo Island. He and Bill Phillips operated the *Carefree* (owned by Bruce Phillips) as a fishing business. Ken and Len's stories have been recorded and Len, who made a career in the Merchant Navy has provided a sketch from memory of the *Carefree*. The Society liaised with the co-operative owner of Aminya Gardens to stress the significance of the horse/cow water trough and trellis posts within the property as well as some significant trees.

The Commonwealth government has created a website www.communityheritage.net.au for the collection and display of information by groups such as the Society. This website has great potential for us, as the Society has several stories waiting to be posted and many more that can be uploaded. The website is having teething problems but, when these are fixed, the Society will be poised to enter a new era, allowing the broader concept of "heritage" rather than "history" to be our organising principle. This will be discussed in the coming year with a view to changing the name of the Society by special resolution.

The Society is doing well but we are aware that its success results in higher overheads, mainly contents insurance and memberships of other organisations.

Thank you all for your support during the year.

David Paxton
President

**COOCHIEMUDLO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
FINANCIAL REPORT
1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013**

Income

Membership fees	\$ 890.00
Book and DVD sales	101.00
Redland City Council Councilor's grant for storage equipment	460.00
Donations – J and R Bland	100.00
Tour	10.00
Other	32.50
Annual General Meeting lunch	420.00
Matthew Flinders Dinner Dance	60.00
In-home chat on Cuba visit	15.00
Bank Interest	36.40
Book sales commissions	300.00
S.E.Q. Catchments – Mangrove Exhibition/Coastcare set up	1,000.00
TOTAL	<u>\$3449.90</u>

Expenditure

Registration trailer	181.95
History Queensland Insurance – Public Liability/Contents/Burglary	640.75
Annual General Meeting costs – food/wine/hall hire	779.85
Membership fees – History Queensland	38.50
Incorporation fees-Office of Fair Trading	45.00
Order of memorial service printing-Ted Jones	150.00
Petty Cash-stationery/engraving purchased at markets/AGM drinks	69.60
Donation – Cancer Foundation	100.00
History Queensland – Magazine Subscriptions	19.80
Refund overpayment membership fees	100.00
Establishment of Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare	500.00
Donation Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare	50.00
Voyager Brisbane – Antique Sextant purchase	890.00
Carolyn Brammer for Mangrove exhibition	500.00
Albox Australia Pty Ltd – storage equipment	460.77
Framing of old Brisbane Streets as prize for dinner dance	70.00
Bank fees	19.25
TOTAL	<u>\$4,615.47</u>

Bank Balance as at 1 July 2011	\$ 2831.15
Less 2011-2012 uncleared cheque	359.90
Actual Balance	2,471.25
Add income	3,449.90
Total	5921.15
Less expenditure	4,615.47
Balance	1,305.68

Bank Balance as at 30 June 2013	1,468.23
Less un-presented cheque	
No 84 \$70.00	70.00
No 85 \$92.55	92.55
	<u>\$1,305.68</u>