

COOCHIEMUDLO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

President's Report 2nd November, 2002.

The term of my presidency has been a difficult one – the year started off with great hopes and expectations that our approaches to the Redland Shire Council for a grant of land might be successful, but to date such is not the case. Nevertheless our Society, thanks to the Redland Shire Council for a grant of \$1,100, commissioned Tania Cleary of Cleary & Kennedy, Architects & Museum Consultants, to do a Feasibility Study to consider the feasibility of constructing a self-contained museum building for the benefit of the Island and the wider community. The outcome of this study was the recommendation that we “develop a vibrant, multi-functional cultural complex”. This idea was accepted by the Society, and generally by Islanders who were not members.

Two working groups were formed with this aim in view – a group, headed by Kevin Childs approached the Council with the request for a land grant; and the other group – the Arts Working Group have put together very comprehensive report on projected aims and requirements

The Society did in September, 2001, organize an Island stand at the Strawberry Festival – Elaine Fraser donated a banner, “Coochiemudlo Island – *the ultimate seachange*” and fourteen businesses had a display - this was a hugely successful community effort which we initiated.

Bern. Cuthbertson, that intrepid Tasmanian sailor who emulated the trip of Matthew Flinders up the eastern coast of Australian when he landed on our Island, kindly allowed us to sell copies of his book “In the Wake of Bass & Flinders”, which helped with funds.

Your Society is a member of the Coochiemudlo Island Markets, and has a stand on most market days – this is another contribution to our Community, and thanks are extended to those who put up the stand, with the display, and help to sell books about the Island. And thanks to the authors – Margarette Cheras and Marie Louise Potter, and Ted Jones, who were available to autograph their books.

Margaret Andersen, on our behalf, successfully applied for a grant to enable us to purchase a computer – this has made the job of Secretary much easier – and has been the means of the Society, once again, helping the wider community.

Your Society now has quite a collection of memorabilia which includes, newspapers, photographs, tools, machinery, etc. and stresses the need for a permanent home for these items.

As with other voluntary organisations, your Society has had to face the huge increase in the cost of insurance – and perhaps we will need to look at an increase in fund raising.

It seems to me that we need the catalyst of a land grant from the Council to really give us the impetus to get enthusiasm and desire at working pitch to achieve that aim recommended by Tania Cleary in her study, i.e. a building to house a Cultural Centre.

Thank you to my Committee who have contributed to this term, and I wish the Society well in the future.

Margaret Walker

Margaret Walker

President.

2nd November, 2002.

COOCHIEMUDLO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.