

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2008/9

The previous Annual General Meeting was held on 4 October 2008. The minutes of this meeting have been circulated. A key function of that meeting was to remember the life and times of Rosemary Opala, a long time member of this Society and a great contributor to the history of Moreton Bay. We had representatives from the Redland Museum and Friends of Peel Island as our special guests. The Blue Gum tree we planted in memory of Rosemary is doing well.

Since then, the Management Committee has been very busy, holding 15 meetings during the year, twelve of these being in connection with our production of the Q150 Flinders Birthday celebration and the play "Matthew Flinders' Ghost" directed by Donna Cameron and scripted and acted by the Coochie Kids. The celebration required many rehearsals from January through into March, and its production took a significant effort by many of our members, which is very much appreciated. In particular, I thank Denise Preston for doing the bulk of the organizing. The celebration had a budget of \$4,500 and actually cost \$4,503 but thanks to our volunteers and the Q150 Fund contribution of \$2,500, our ticket sales and raffle revenues were free and clear.

We applied for a Gambling Community Development Grant for a trailer for the dinghy *Trim*, but were unsuccessful on technicalities (no audited financial statement and no ABN). We protested and, on our behalf, Peter Dowling took the matter up with the Queensland Treasurer. The Fund administrators have now updated the rules, and invited us to re-submit, but we had already submitted an application to the Regional Community Development Fund. A trailer will make *Trim* far more accessible to the community.

We have written a history time frame as this Society's contribution to renewing the Victoria Point jetty, which is a Progress Association project. We have updated the history page on coochiemudloisland.com.au.

The Society attended the *Stories of the Redlands* and the *Stories of a Place – King Island* at the Redland Museum and our guest speaker Narelle Renn will be telling us more about how she produced the King Island exhibition. We have become corporate members of the Redland Museum. The Society also attended a meeting with the City Council, the Museum and the new Museum Development Officer for the South East, Helen Pithie, who may be a useful contact for us.

During the year the Society purchased a new gazebo for market days etc. We also looked into organizing a day visit to Peel Island but found it would be very expensive and also difficult to arrange because suitable tides are quite rare. We have given talks on Island history to tour groups and to the Capalaba Women's Group. Ian Rowland has recorded many images over the year, which we have stored.

I would like to thank Rob Allan for coming on to the Committee for 2008/9. He has decided not to nominate again this year because of work commitments. Thank you, Rob. And Ted Jones has not nominated for Committee this year. I thank him for great service to the Committee. And thank you to the other Committee members: Margaret Walker, Denise Preston and David Paxton.