

President's Report to AGM of 4 November 2007

The past twelve months has been most productive for your Society. Thank you all for your support which underlies that success. Thank you also to your Committee which has been hard working and reactive. The Committee comprises the President, Margaret Walker as Vice-President, Denise Preston as Treasurer, David Paxton as Secretary, Carolyn Brammer, Elizabeth Sparks and Margaret Cranston as Committee Members.

This is also an opportunity to welcome new members Rob Allan, Sue Hudson, Irene Martin, Des and Di Binstead, Kerry Bramer, Pat Marini and to welcome back Craig Morrison and Ronnie and Peter James. We say goodbye and thank-you to Barbara Larsen, who is leaving to set up life with her family in Nanango. Barbara contributed to Coochemudlo history with her well-written oral history of Ted Jones, *Pilgrim against Progress*. We also welcome guests Elaine Fraser (once a very active member of the Society before her move to the mainland) and Fran Collins.

The Society subscribes to *Australian Heritage* which is held at the History Room. We assisted with a visit to Coochiemudlo by The Gap History Society. We contributed to the award winning Southern Moreton Bay Heritage Trail brochure managed by Tracy Ryan of Redland Shire Council Library and took Tracy on a tour of the track. The Society is a financial member of History Queensland, which is the peak body of local and family history societies. The President and Secretary attended a seminar organised by the Royal Historical Society of Queensland on the creation of the State of Queensland. Rosemary Opala hosted a visit to an exhibition on Peel Island at the Redland Museum which the President and Secretary attended. We have a useful collection of Rosemary's writing, including an article on the *Woman's Mirror* on her kitten Taddy, whose headstone we have installed in the grounds of the Community Hall.

In March, the Society arranged a birthday party for Matthew Flinders. The party raised some \$1,500 towards our costs and projects. We do appreciate very much the generous support of the Members and Coochiemudlo community for such events. In many ways, this report is about how your money has been spent. We are looking for ideas from you on Flinders Birthday 2008.

The Society managed a very heart warming enhancement of the re-enactment of Flinders' landing on 15 July this year. By a stroke of luck, Denise Preston met Paul Flomersfeld and his son Christopher on the barge one day. They are related to Matthew Flinders and were visiting the Island because of his visit over 200 years ago. We arranged for all of Christopher's family, including his grand-parents (Aileen and Keith Thomson of South Australia) to come to Coochiemudlo for Flinders Day, including the Ball, as our guests. Aileen officially named *Trim*, the Flinders Day dinghy, at a simple public ceremony on 14 July at the Barefoot Bar of the Resort. Christopher was aboard the dinghy bringing his great great great uncle Matthew Flinders ashore for the re-enactment. It was a very big day for a young boy and an even bigger one for his grandparents.

We worked with the Coochie Island Resort to help market tickets for the Flinders Day Ball on Saturday 14 July. Carolyn Brammer and Lindsay Duncan hosted pre-Ball drinks in honour of the Flomersfeld/Thomsin families. Through the Progress Association we were involved with the parade, the markets and the re-enactment of Flinders' landing on 15 July. This Society commissioned Kerry Downes to appliqué a new Queen Anne flag to replace Ted's which is falling to bits. Thanks, Kerry.

The restoration of *Trim*, the Flinders Day dinghy, is almost complete. This is a joint project with the Progress Association and originally had core funding under a Community Development Grant through the Redland Shire Council. Donors and the Society have paid for materials for the later stages of work on *Trim*. An important volunteer in these late stages of *Trim's* completion is Peter Buechse, who spray-painted the dinghy a marvellous heritage grey. *Trim* is in dry storage courtesy of John and Andrew McLennan. Thank you to Peter and the McLennans, and to Bruce Wolstein who also helped prepare the dinghy for painting.

Denise Preston collated the Nev Dixon collection of letters hand written by Wal Rice to produce *Sailors in Slouch Hats*. We have begun work on a collection of photographs etc donated by Arthur Underwood and will mount these and a photograph of the late Beryl Underwood in the History Room. Margaret Cranston is exploring ideas for the re-generation of *Chronicles of Coochiemudlo*. Carolyn Brammer and David Paxton are working on publication of Rosemary Opala's writing on Peel Island. Carolyn is following up on a possible cooperation with Bayside Car Restorers for a major event later in 2008.

The Society purchased a plaque to mark the site of the Lone Pine, which Nev Dixon and others planted on 18 October 1997. The words on the plaque were provided by Lorraine Dixon-Bone. The plaque was installed very professionally by Keith Slack. Thank you, Keith.

The Society has installed a brass plaque to mark the site of the cook-house of 43 Landing Craft Company in the first fairway of the Isle of Coochie Golf Club. The Club generously donated \$100, being half the cost.

The Society's page on coochieisland.com.au, which Grace Chu Te created, attracts "hits" and follow-up. Thanks, Grace.

Through the year, Ian Rowland has generously donated disks of photographs and videos of events on the Island. These are in store at the History Room, which recently also was pressed into absorbing artefacts which Merle Beckett had stored on her veranda, including advertising plates and the tiller/rudder from the *Carefree*, Bill Phillip's professional fishing boat. Thanks, Ian and Merle. Fortunately we now have secure storage for records and artefacts, thanks to a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for a grant for furniture for the History Room, including a metal storage cabinet. The grant is much appreciated and also the help we received from John English MP and his staff in applying for it.

The furniture has stimulated the donation of Ted Jones collection of books, many of which are significant, valuable sources on William Bligh, James Cook and Matthew

Flinders. For the Australia Day Markets next year, we are planning a display on Captain Cook. Ted's donation will assist us greatly.

Very recently changes have been made to the Associations Incorporation Act. These are the subject of a special resolution today. We no longer have to ask our auditor, Arthur Chaston, for his help in submitting annual reports to the Office of Fair Trading any more. Arthur's inputs have been so important and so freely given that we shall miss his generous cooperation. Thank you, Arthur.

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Ted Jones
President