

Coochiemudlo Island Historical Society Inc.

Annual General Meeting

11.00 am 26 August 2012, held at the Community Hall

MINUTES

Attendance: Diane and Trevor Gillham, Norma Green, Daveen O'Pray (Treasurer), David Paxton (President), Denise Preston (Vice-President), Patricia Screen, Keith Slack, Keith Stebbins (Secretary), Margaret Walker, Rae and Peter Wear, Annie Jamieson, Denise Wright, Merle Beckett, Jan MacIntyre, Annette and Bob Drennan, Ruby and Jeremy Sanders.

By invitation: John Sinclair, Tokiko (Su) Dawson, Ian Rowland, Christine and Christopher Leonard, Mary Preston, Gwen Bryant, Ann Wright, Christine Stewart, David Seibert, Mary Preston, Irene and Rod Busst, Colleen and Michael Morgan, Lindsay Bond, June Outteridge

Apologies: Bruce Green, John Pearn, Carolyn Brammer and Lindsay Duncan, Margrit and Dennis Lack, Viv Wright, Peter Dowling, Lance Hewlet, Karen Williams, Andrew and Olesja Laming, Graeme and Vivienne Roberts-Thomsan, Ellen Paxton, Brian Aitken, Des and Di Binsted, Anne and Ivan Holm, Des and Di Binstead, Jacqui Cresswell

Adopted: Merle Beckett/Norma Green

1. **Life Member:** Keith Stebbins proposed a motion that David Paxton be made a life member given his contribution to the Society. This was unanimously endorsed by the meeting. **Adopted**
2. **Confirmation of previous minutes:** The minutes of the AGM 20 November 2011 were adopted (Margaret Walker/Denise Preston) **Adopted**
3. **President's Report:** David Paxton's reported is attached. The report was adopted (Margaret Walker/Norma Green) **Adopted with acclamation**
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Daveen O'Pray is attached. The report was adopted (Daveen O'Pray/Denise Preston). **Adopted with acclamation**
5. **Election of Management Committee:** Ian Rowlands JP, conducted the elections. He advised that the following nominees had accepted nomination and were duly elected:
President: David Paxton
Vice President: Denise Preston
Treasurer: Daveen O'Pray
Secretary: Keith Stebbins
Committee Members: Vivienne Roberts-Thomson, Peter Wear, Brian Aitken
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: John Sinclair. Before lunch Peter Wear welcomed John Sinclair. Peter shared with those present the achievements of John Sinclair in preserving the natural environmental beauty of Fraser Island, and in taking legal challenges against the State to achieve this end. John then addressed the meeting (*Thinking Outside the Square for Achievement*) and spoke of his experiences in creating a better environment. He spoke of:

- a. growing up in Maryborough and how the old Queenslander homes have now become a very important part of Maryborough's heritage as the owners have great pride in their homes.
- b. Dangers of development as a lake on Fraser island has disappeared as the sand track has caused erosion and the gradual filling and disappearance of the lake.
- c. What some outback communities in Queensland have done to establish a community pride and attract tourists in places such as Winton, Barcaldine and Longreach and Warwick.
- d. How one individual can make a huge difference to a community. John spoke of how Jamie Lerner transformed the town of Curitiba through installing an effective bus system for the town when he was mayor.

Acclamation

John then challenged those attending the meeting to work with the community to identify the unique features of Coochiemudlo Island that they wanted to preserve, and then to develop strategies to develop community support and pride in those features.

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

Vote of thanks to the Kiosk

Acclamation

After lunch, David Paxton moved a vote of thanks to the Kiosk for a well prepared lunch, seconded by Denise Preston

David Paxton
President

COOCHIEMUDLO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2012 ANNUALGENERAL MEETING
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thank you members for attending this meeting and supporting the Society through the year. Thank you also to Tokiko Dawson and John Sinclair for driving down to speak to us, and to our guests who have come to hear John talk and join us for lunch, which is catered by the Kiosk. Welcome to new members Jeremy and Ruby Sanders and family.

Especial thanks to the committee: Keith Stebbins Secretary, Denise Preston Vice-President, Daveen O'Pray Treasurer and Peter Wear and Vivienne Roberts-Thomson Committee Members. It has, as always, been a busy year for the Committee, which had formal meetings in November, January, March, May, June, and July as well as many informal meetings.

Sadly, this year marks the passing of Ted Jones on 26 April 2012. Ted was 87 years old, almost twice as long as he expected to live with atrial fibrillation. In the end, he just died. On 21 July we scattered his ashes as requested at a well attended community gathering led by Pastor Bruce Warwick, and remembered him again more publicly the next day by briefing speakers at Flinders Day. Ted was the founding President of the Society and the founding Matthew Flinders. I think we shall have many reasons in years to come to comment on his long sightedness. Steps have begun to have his name remembered, perhaps re-naming the Red Buoy for him in the channel near where the Norfolk anchored in 1799. I imprudently mentioned an astronomical observatory in his name but now realise there are better ways. Part of Ted's ashes now resides in the Wall of Remembrance, in a small box crafted beautifully by Keith Slack, and it's worth having a look at the plaque we organised with funding help from Progress and the RSL.

We are fairly well integrated with the mainland, through meetings at Redland Museum, one notable one being Narelle Renn's wonderful exhibition on mangroves. The museum also gave me the opportunity to present my book, which I much appreciated. Keith Slack and Daveen O'Pray represented us at *Unlock the Past* at Donara Homestead in Goomeri during the Pumpkin Festival, and I represented us at the History Queensland AGM at The Gap, an event marked by the demise of my car's alternator. Cross Country Tours has discovered Coochiemudlo Island as a desirable and convenient destination for bus tours which include morning tea at the Kiosk, lunch at the Resort, purchase of craft at the History Room and a tour of the Island guided by the Society. We receive a donation of \$2 per passenger and a piece of Angie and Elizabeth's cake or pie at the Kiosk.

Previous residents and present residents have been very supportive also and this year donated several collections: Joan and Tom Bland, the Morton family diary with 60 photographs covering the period 1919 to about 1970 (we have digitalised this); Maureen O'Connor, a well managed 20 year snapshot (we held a thankyou lunch for Maureen which was well attended and she came to Ted's farewell although travelling is difficult for her); Geoff Michie, a story and a converted Super 8mm film of Coochiemudlo as a holiday place in the 1960s (Geoff met with the Committee to present his DVD and we were able to show him the old family holiday house); Rae Bridges, sheet music of the Coochie Song; Michael Gourlay of Mooroondu Street, a

cross section of publications; Bob Last, who left this month for Kyogle and a less suburban lifestyle, a portrait and documents which fill gaps about the haunted house and Ted Jones' recalcitrance regarding reticulation of water and electricity; Margaret Walker, old black and white photographs of Ted Jones as Matthew Flinders; Simon and Sharon Tewson, who used to run the Resort, donated very nice photographs of the replica Norfolk and sunset over Coochiemudlo; Denise Wright donated Moonlight Over the Estuary, a book by Ken Methold, which completes the circle because Ken and Peter Wear produced and acted the ABC radio serial show Moonlight Over the Estuary which was an hilarious fiction based in Coochiemudlo. I am pleased to thank Ian Rowland too because Ian has generously and reliably supplied scores of photographs to the Society on community events, as has Diane Gillham. Patricia Screen donated 2 books on the ABC Hospital Hour, the music for which was put together by Lyn DeBree, our neighbour in Kingfisher Street who reputedly gardened in the nude. But that was just before our time. Brian and Margaret Britten very recently donated a book on the voyages of Matthew Flinders and one on Australian history. We helped Ken Goodman, aka Steamboat Ken in print, to substantiate his hypothesis that a wreck of one of the Landing Craft Company barges is beached in the Redland Bay Channel. The 42 and 43 Landing Craft Companies trained on Coochiemudlo during WWII and distinguished themselves in action. Among their numbers were Frank Packer, Ninian Stephen and Nigel Bowen.

We were extremely fortunate to have Professor Paul Tacon of Griffith University speak to us on 18 March for Flinders Birthday, on Aboriginal Rock Art as an Archive of History. Paul is also one of the excavators of the Red Deer people in western China, which is exciting international attention, and brought us up-to-date on using virtual reality techniques to analyse rock art and archaeological specimens. The birthday went very well thanks largely to Denise Preston and Keith Stebbins who Master Cheffed the lunch.

The Society has also been involved in local community matters. These include the relocation and redevelopment of the flag pole in Foreshore Park by the RSL. Peter Wear in particular and also the members generally have been active in assessing community response to a proposed triathlon and ensuring the protection of the environment and the wildlife, especially juveniles in the Spring. I understand that the would-be organisers have been asked to rethink the whole thing, given the small size and fragility of the Island. It is timely that John Sinclair is speaking to us today and I have to thank Vivienne Roberts-Thomson for suggesting his name. Keith Stebbins, Carolyn Brammer and Vivienne Roberts-Thomson responded on our behalf to the Redlands Open Space Plan. We have updated the potted history of the island with the ABS statistics which give a snapshot of Coochiemudlo on 19 August 2011. We have worked in well with Lance Hewlett our new Councillor and I am confident he will be a really good one, as would Louise Denisenko have been, but we can only have one Councillor. Lance has commented on the professionalism of the Society.

We acquired Rosemary Opala's scratching of Banksias at the local art auction, I think courtesy of Mary Preston, and have it hung in the History Room. It possibly is quite valuable, as may be the original etching which Daveen O'Pray and I bought in the markets. It is of tall ships in Port Adelaide and dated 1888, marking the first centenary, and very fine. Under our Constitution we cannot dispose of donated items but acquired ones are a sort of investment because we can raffle them if need be.

The Society is auspicing Alex Beresford to conduct a camera survey of mammals on the Island and we became a member of SEQ Catchments in the process. We decided not to proceed with Volume III of the Chronicles of Coochiemudlo because we do not think we can fund it and times have changed in favour of electronic media. However, I am working up the courage to ask Jeanette Covacevich to advise on how to survey amphibians also. She was keen to be involved in Volume III and probably disappointed we changed our minds. We will be working with Redland City to identify sites of historical significance but at the moment the system seems stunned by the whirlwind which has swirled through the State public sector.

The Society has attended market days and assisted with the re-enactment of Flinders Landing, Paul Moynagh and the Flomersfeld boys braving gale force winds to do so, in *Trim* our classic dinghy. Paul has bought a new sword, paid for by Progress, so Ted's old sword is now in our collection. Peter Wear has a Coochiemudlo calendar close to completion for sale at the markets at the Christmas end of the year, so please support this fund raising project. Peter's photographs are superb. He is also considering how best to drag us into the internet age.

Thank you for listening and best wishes for the coming year.

David Paxton
President

