



NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION INC.
ANNUAL REPORT
15th September 2017

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report for 2016/2017.

The major milestone and event for the year was our 30th Anniversary celebration on 13th May with a community function at the Museum and the running of two big raffles. I thank all the generous donors to those raffles and to all the ticket buyers. We also thank Bernadette Ryan for her great work in arranging all the Raffle prizes and making the raffles so exciting. The function and the Raffles were very successful fund raisers and we will be carefully considering the special uses we put the money toward. As part of the 30th Anniversary celebrations, the Museum collected artwork from every Dunwich State School Class inspired by the Museum Collection, and I am sure everybody enjoyed them posted all over the Museum at the student's discretion.

Long serving Management Committee Members Margaret Nash and Barbara Smith will not be standing for re-election this year. Margaret as Treasurer and Barbara as Secretary and Display convener have for many years given invaluable service to the Museum. We wish them well in their retirement.

On behalf of the Museum I want to express our appreciation of the work all the volunteers contributed through the year. And both Lisa and Elisabeth who contribute far more time and effort than we could ever pay them for.

Lisa and Elisabeth have both been granted valuable Research Awards this year. Elisabeth is being funded to do research at the Queensland Maritime Museum and Lisa has been granted a Fellowship with the Queensland State Library. As we said in the latest Newsletter these are both Prestigious Awards and exciting opportunities for them and for the Museum.

During the year 1277 school children visited the Museum as part of their school curriculum and Elisabeth and Lisa presented classes on topics related to Minjerribah North Stradbroke history. This busy program is very demanding of Elisabeth and Lisa's time but it is also one of the most rewarding.

A particularly interesting activity and display was developed during the year. A table of “strange historical objects” from our collection, which had to be identified. It was a challenge to most visitors and made so by providing many possible answers including the correct ones- very few got all correct

There is an exciting new draft poster for a proposed new installation to be displayed in the lobby with Aboriginal names for land features on Minjerribah. Please make any suggestions to the Committee members for corrections or significant additions to the map.

Safety

As I mentioned last year we have a long-term problem with the safety of our front entrance. We need a design which complies with Redland City Council (RCC) Workplace Health and Safety Regulations, which we can then cost and seek funding. We are working toward it!!

Community Involvement

One of the main goals of the Museum is to foster and encourage community involvement with the Museum and these activities continued busily all year. I won't list numbers or all the functions but I will mention a few as examples.

Our usual ANZAC Day function had about 100 people and a lot of biscuits were devoured. Our annual Seniors and Respite Care morning tea was a great success for everybody.

A Series of craft workshops were arranged as school holiday activities and they were very successful, along with a series of weekly Curator Talks.

The Museum coordinated and hosted a fund-raising function and book launch for the Rural Fire Brigade. The book *“Jagi and the Huge Straddie Fire”* is about a koala threatened by the fire.

Historical information and artefacts were collected and presented for the 75th Anniversary of the “Rufus King” wreck at a community historical talk. We also hosted a visit and information exchange with the Queensland Maritime Museum. A public Curator's talk in the park at Amity about shipwrecks of the South Passage Bar was interesting and well attended. We do not count the attendances at these functions outside the Museum- it would be interesting to include future estimated attendances.

Presentations about local social history were prepared and given to public audiences at Adder Rock and Amity Point- again numbers of attendees are not included in our visitor statistics.

An active program collecting Oral Histories with community members continued all year. Thanks to a generous donation from Councillor Paul Bishop we purchased a new iPad and a Zoom recorder to assist with collecting these oral histories.

Stalls have been held at many local functions the biggest being the Opening Ceremony of the Quandamooka Festival and at the Yura Yallingbilla or Whale Welcoming.

An educational activity was prepared for NAIDOC week festivities. The Museum in partnership with Straddie Camping delivered a Jandai language and swamp mahogany planting ceremony for Prep and year 3 children. 27 trees were donated by Sibelco and planted around the QYAC oval.

Elisabeth gave a presentation to school teachers at a professional development evening facilitated by Redland City Council Library Services.

Many individual searches of our records are completed for, local families, local groups or sporting associations and community groups and for researchers. As in the past the greatest number are for descendants of Dunwich Benevolent Asylum inmates, or researchers. Thank you Althea for your diligent attention to these requests which can be up to 15 per month but generally 7-8.

The Museum provided programs throughout the year for work for the dole and other welfare recipients.

Collection Management

A new Compactus has been installed in the Ellie Durbidge Archive room. It is a very valuable addition but the burden of relocating the collection on the database is going to take some time and effort. The document collection is being reclassified to be compatible with RCC Local History Collection system and Angela Puarta spent her annual leave from the Victoria Point Library resorting the collection and is continuing to guide this work, having previously catalogued our library. Jenni Turner and Tracy Ryan are working their way through relocating items into the new compactus.

A valuable donation was received from Betty Robinson of her father's carpentry tool box which he used at the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum. The collection was cleaned and displayed by Mick Bright.

John Winterbotham donated his collection of Dunwich Benevolent Research documents from the State Archives.

Research

Extensive research into the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum will be published in a book which will be produced later this year. But I am proud to say that today a new booklet "*An Introduction to the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum*" will be launched. It is a precursor to the full book but should be popular with the many visitors who are interested in the Asylum.

We gave information about North Stradbroke Island WW1 soldiers to the Australian War Memorial. Lisa and Elisabeth met with Redland City Council Library Services about collaborating on WW1 Soldiers publication and John Winterbotham has been very helpful with research for the ANZAC project

Elisabeth completed a research project for the NSI Golf Club of the history of golf on Stradbroke. A short par 3 course for Asylum staff and inmates and located along what is now Oxley Parade was probably the first public golf in Queensland.

Research in the National Archives was completed for the RCC Redlands Remembers publication, and liaison with Henry Lea's family to update his service record.

Research was started on the history of the Island's domestic water supply particularly the Yerrol Creek pump station, which you see is now our temporary display to coincide with the Quandamooka Festival.

NSIHM is a member of the Redland Cultural Heritage Network Group and several meetings have been held including one at Dunwich which included a valuable presentation by Michael Costello at the QYAC Keeping Place.

An EOI was submitted to the Australian Maritime Museum regarding participation in their shipwreck exhibition program.

Lisa attended the Museums and Galleries Australia National Conference. Last year this Group awarded us the National Award for the WW1 Project.

Dunwich Foreshore Project

Redland City Council has assumed management of the Project and the Museum is a member of the committee and an adviser. Good progress was achieved with the engagement of 8 University of Queensland Archaeology Masters students under the supervision of Professor John Prangnell.

Several longstanding Museum members passed away during the year.

Aunty Colleen Costello a long and strong supporter who donated digital copies of her very valuable photo collection.

Stan Crowther an enthusiastic volunteer who catalogued many of the press clipping folders.

Len Goebel, Wendy's husband who was a diligent first generation marmalade maker as mentioned several times in eulogies by family members at his funeral.

Lorraine Starkey a long-standing member.

Sponsorship

We thank Redland City Council for their continued financial support for the Museum. The Five Year Funding Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding with RCC was reviewed and renegotiated and the final draft is awaiting signature by City Council. RCC and Councillors also added to our Grant during the year with a special Grant of \$10,000 without which we would have a financial deficit for this year. Thank you.

Other donors were Joyce Shinn, Colleen Costello's sister in the USA.

New Friends of the Museum were Joan Benham, and The Bowman family.

Joan Benham also recently donated the model of the Endeavour you see in the gallery. Thank you Joan. She brought it back in her hand luggage from Mauritius

Volunteers

Marmalade makers kept up with the good cumquat crops and sales totalled \$4822. This work is so important for the Museum I will list all the jam makers: Judy and Mike Hines, Bruce Martin, Elinor Drake and Mike, Joan Benham, June Jackson, Colin and Virginia Taylor, Cindy Harold, Elizabeth Butterworth, Joan Bryan, Lee Smith, Jan Burhmann, Roger Wooler, Melodie Downey, Cath Stevenson, Caroline Hatcher, Sue Barnes, and Christine Slinger. Thank you everybody.

Thanks to Sibelco and Karen McGill for continuing to print our newsletter despite the slowly diminishing workforce.

As I said earlier Althea Vickers continued her tireless and important processing of requests from descendants for research of DBA inmates.

And Mike Ricks continued his general maintenance around the Museum. Thank you to the Manns for collecting and delivering the newspapers so we can maintain our clipping service.

Finally thank you everybody who helped achieve and celebrate our 30th Anniversary. I look forward with the new committee to a challenging and rewarding 4th decade as exciting as the previous 3.

Geoff Moore

15th September 2017