



NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION INC.
ANNUAL REPORT
19th September 2015

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report for 2014/2015.

The Museum was a busy and vital part of the North Stradbroke Island community throughout the year. I thank the Museum Committee for their support and enthusiasm through a challenging year, and the dedication of our exceptional staff Elisabeth and Lisa. They are all very committed to what is best for the Museum, and while passionate about it, we all work very well together.

I thank you all for your devotion to the Museum!

Margaret will report on our financial results and status. I can only add that while we have adequate funds we always need to source new grants and new funding. I commend the jam makers for their contribution of over \$4700 (\$500 more than last year) after a bumper harvest, and revenue from admissions was \$17,183, an increase of 18%.

The achievement we are most proud of this year was the Stradbroke 100 Exhibition and particularly the accompanying booklet, completed with a State Government ANZAC 100 Grant commemorating 22 WW1 soldiers with a connection to Stradbroke Island. Lisa and Elisabeth were major contributors, with many helpers from our volunteers, families of the Diggers, and the community. Helen Groombridge from Stradbroke Design produced the display boards and the booklet. The project was the subject of a national SBS World News segment including an interview with Lisa, and it was also the subject of an interview with Redland City Bulletin. The Exhibition has been transferred to Redland Museum for the last couple of months.

Our biggest challenge for the year was co-hosting the Small Museums Annual Conference with Redland Museum in August 2014. It was very successful and well attended with a valuable Masterclass Workshop by Dr. Amareswar Galla on the Thursday before the Conference. A total of 130 local and international delegates attended the Conference and over 20 papers were presented including two from NSIHM representatives. I thank Redland Museum and particularly Ross Bower for their

cooperation and management of much of the administrative workload. The highlight of the Conference was the aptly named "Floating Dinner" on the Saturday. It was on the recently repainted Minjerribah, cruising on the Bay for a leisurely evening, but with gale force wind and driving rain! During the evening the weather abated thankfully and it finished calm and dry and generally enjoyable- but a bit cosy in the dining area! Music was beautifully provided by the accomplished Cleveland District High School music students. Thank you Stradbroke Ferries for the generous help for a unique conference dinner- Everybody will remember it!

The exciting addition to the Museum is a new and very efficient kitchen per favour of a generous donor. The layout and design was drafted by Chris Hills. We also have a new refrigerator purchased with a grant from a Queensland Government Caring for Our Community grant.

In June 2015 the world travelling canoe "Hokulea" from Hawaii made a very exciting visit to Dunwich and to the Museum.

School tours were a large part of the activities for the year with classes presented to all the visiting groups as well as regular classes at the Museum for several grades from Dunwich State School. A total of 2373 children on school tours visited the Museum during the year and this continues to be one of the most fulfilling functions for staff and volunteers. Evelyn Parkin contributes classes on Aboriginal Heritage. I acknowledge and thank the Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre and their staff Georgina Robertson and Katrina Logan for arranging and coordinating some of these very valuable tours.

We provide a diverse program of tours for Universities, seniors and other visiting groups and these are important in engaging the broader south east Queensland community and organisations. NEW ACQUISITIONS of note through the year were: a collection of Uncle Bob Anderson's, which includes a beautifully restored clock from the "Otter"; a great collection of old bottles and items from the Benevolent Asylum unearthed during excavations for sewerage works; significant maps from UQ Architecture Department; the Beck-Cooper collection relating to the "shacks" of Point Lookout; collections donated by Ailsa Perry and Margaret Nash from the various community groups they have been associated with; pastel drawings by Jeanette Sellwood; an old bondwood "beachie" fishing rowboat; other collections were donated by Albert Lenigas, the Hayles family, the Agnew family, Bonty Dickson's engineering "diary", a photographic collection from Lance and Desley Blemmings, and the Keith Watson Staddie Classic collection.

The museum has maintained an active program of contemporary collecting and over the year and has recorded significant community events. Contemporary collecting is done through recording oral histories, taking photographs and collecting ephemera. Thanks to Paul Bishop and his Councillors fund for a grant of \$2422 to purchase a video camera. This will greatly assist in contemporary collecting for our community.

Our temporary COMMUNITY EXHIBITS included the Straddie Classic Fishing competition, Stradbroke Ferries 50th Birthday exhibition, a special display for Remembrance Day with many items provided by Bill Giles, and the current exhibit inviting contributions to creating a timeline of the history of Stradbroke Island.

GRANTS COMPLETED and acquitted during the year were the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum project under a Qld State Government Grant, a small project for Straddie Camping on the history of Hosting on NSI with some Oral Histories, an RCC Project Support Grant on the NSI fishing industry, and a Community Heritage Grant for digitisation training,

RESEARCH support is provided to many researchers. A couple of examples are the following researchers: Sandra Kirkwood is doing a PhD on music history through Newcastle University; and Sonja Carmichael is continuing on her fibre culture PhD research.

A Mini Conference was held at the Museum and papers were presented by three researchers who have used the Museum archives. About 40 people attended, and it was pleasing to see these researchers share their findings with the community.

Staff and volunteers attended various conferences and workshops through the year-. Lisa presented recently to the Conference of Museums and Galleries of South Queensland (held every four years), and Elisabeth made a presentation last week to the National Oral History Association Conference in Perth.

Volunteers particularly Althea Vickers provide a very valuable research service to descendants of Benevolent Asylum inmates who are buried in Dunwich cemetery, by researching the death register and admission documents if available.

COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS held through the year included; Remembrance Day and Anzac Day commemoration ceremonies at the Cenotaph and morning tea for many visitors at the Museum; the Stradbroke WW1 exhibition was part of the Dunwich State School ANZAC Day ceremony; a morning tea for families and community members for Straddie's WW1 enlistees; Senior Citizens morning tea with residents from the Respite Centre entertained by the Prep School singers; support for the Chamber Music festival;

a Dunwich State School professional development session on Aboriginal culture was held at the Museum for about 40 participants; support for fundraising for businesses affected by the fires; and a very successful “roadshow” of the Museum archives for the Point Lookout community.

TOTAL VISITOR NUMBERS were 8466 which is an increase of 14% over last year. School tour groups made up 2373 which is an increase of 16%. Lisa and Elisabeth work very hard at maintaining the high quality of the classes for school groups and in helping promote the museum as a great educational resource. Adults on tours were 1011.

Redland City Council maintained their financial support of \$61,848 for the Museum, which represents about 35% of our operating costs. We appreciate this continued recognition from the Council. The funding is a significant help in maintaining the Museum and its services to the Island communities.

We thank the Friends of the Museum for their support and we preserve their funds either as a source of interest earnings or for special projects, which can not be otherwise funded. In the coming year we are installing solar panels for power generation, the cost being met from interest on the funds of the Friends of the Museum. This will save about \$3000 in annual operating costs. Thank you Friends.

University of Queensland Diving Club and Sibelco donated 200 copies of their new book “The Flora and Fauna of NSI Dive Sites” for sale with the full proceeds going to the Museum.

Sibelco generously prints our quarterly newsletter for which we are very grateful and they also help in other ways. The school donates all their copies of the Courier Mail newspaper so we can continue our valuable clipping of NSI related items, which Steve Barwell and others complete.

During the year our industrious marmalade makers Judy and Mike Hines, were exhausted by the prolific harvest of cumquats and have had to retire. We appreciate their efforts over numerous years and thank you Judy and Mike. As a gesture of our appreciation we have granted them Life Membership of the Museum. THANK YOU Judy and Mike.

We recently experimented with an alternative strategy of campaign jam making with a “Jamboree” at the High School kitchen. 12 volunteers made 67 jars of marmalade. We are planning further Jamborees rather than placing heavy workloads on an exhausted few- so watch for the notices. Thank you Bruce Martin, Elizabeth Butterworth, Ron and June Jackson, Lee Curtis, Lee Smith, Joan Benham and Margaret and Les Nash, the

marmalade is a great revenue earner but it is also one of the signature sales items for the Museum

Thanks to our busy group of volunteers for their efforts through the years. One volunteer - Angela Puata - is a qualified librarian who has done wonders with our substantial library and she is now working on our accession system. The volunteers this year recorded 4211 hours at the Museum, but as I have said before that is a totally understated statistic!

John Mines a long serving volunteer who was largely responsible for accumulating our extensive documents for the Benevolent Asylum has decided to retire from the committee this year due to ill health. We thank you John for all the time you spent in the State Archives and for your active participation on the committee for over 25 years. We wish you all the best.

Ellie Durbidge has decided to stand down from the committee. Ellie's part in the Museum has been long and definitive. She was not only a Foundation Member but she initiated the idea of a Museum and started it in a lean-to at the Point Lookout Hall and then established it at this site with the cottage donated by the mining company. She was then the driving force, as only Ellie could be, in setting up all the displays and acquisitions. Ellie, the community has much to thank you for but the Museum will be one of your many legacies. Thank you Ellie.

We are grateful for the generous time and effort volunteered by many people, particularly Mike Ricks, Jonathan and Kate Hodge, and Jalum Fishery and Rick Perry who donated fresh mullet for fund raising. Heather Way who produces the hand towels is a significant contributor to our earnings. The hand towels are a very popular item particularly at Christmas and Easter. And I think everybody will agree that Barbara Smith has contributed more than her responsibility as Secretary this year.

The Museum belongs to the community and we value our role in the community. Our highest priority is to engage with all the groups on the Island including the three villages and we will continue the popular "roadshows" to Amity and Point Lookout. We also strive for our committee to reflect the community groups and we look forward to a fulfilling year ahead.

Thank you

Geoff Moore

President North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum