



**NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION INC.**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**17th September 2016**

On August 10th Ellie Durbidge passed away. On behalf of the Museum I would like to acknowledge Ellie and her significant role in the origin and evolution of our Museum. Ellie was brave enough and determined enough to be Ellie all her life but she dedicated her life to all things North Stradbroke Island. Her contribution to the Museum started with the first community meeting in May 1987 to discuss forming a museum. She was elected to the committee later that month and gave her service for 29 years without a break. Jenny Cook-Bramley was elected as President at the first AGM in 1988- we have the first minute book for those early years. The initial collection housed in a lean-to at the Point Lookout Hall included the protest banner painted by Oodgeroo and a large collection of Ellie's mother Gladys. Ellie's spirit is everywhere in the Museum her artwork is on most of our merchandise and her aesthetic vision is maintained today in the clean uncluttered displays. But it is in the Archives that Ellie spent most of her time and in recognition of Ellie;

I ADVISE THAT THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HAVE DECIDED TO REMEMBER ELLIE BY NAMING THE ARCHIVE ROOM THE ELLIE DURBIDGE ARCHIVE ROOM.

It is now my pleasure to present the Annual Report for 2015/2016.

2015/2016 has been a year of change and Transition for Stradbroke Island communities and for the Museum. I thank all our volunteers and Elisabeth and Lisa for their dedication to the Museum throughout the year

A highlight for the year was winning two Awards for the Stradbroke 100 Project and Exhibition researching soldiers with a direct connection to Stradbroke Island who enlisted in World War 1. In November 2015 the Museum won the State MAGMAA Award, and in May this year we won the National MAGNA Award. Lisa and Elisabeth were able to attend the Museums and Galleries National Awards in Auckland to receive the National Award. I think this is due recognition for the 22 WW1 soldiers connected to North Stradbroke Island and also it is acknowledgement of the high quality of the research, and the wonderful exhibition and booklet. The Exhibit was also displayed at Redland Museum.

Lisa, Elisabeth and Evelyn continued their busy program of school tours and classes and particularly their integrated program with Dunwich State School. This work takes about 40% of their time- classes were delivered according to School Curricula in Aboriginal History, European History, and Environment. Student's tour visits last calendar year were over 2000 but there has been a small drop off this calendar year for a number of unrelated reasons. Lisa attended the MAGSQ Conference and presented a very well received Paper on the Museum's education program.

Research at the Museum was extensive and demanding during the year and occupied over 40% of staff and volunteers time. Research topics were diverse- varying from the tragic stories of WW1 soldiers returning to a sad life in the Benevolent asylum to the history of golf also starting at the Benevolent Asylum. Did you know the second oldest golf course in Queensland was along Oxley Parade for the Asylum inmates! A community meeting was hosted in the Museum to gather stories about golfing in Dunwich. Althea Vickers answered many requests from descendants for information on inmates of the Benevolent Asylum- this is a very valuable and unique service the Museum fulfils helped by the extensive research John Mines did over many years.

During the year it became apparent to Museum staff that there may be some threats to two of the Significant Sites on the State Register at the Store/Garrison near the Straddie Camping building and the Convict Causeway. After research and numerous meetings, a Working Committee has been established with Redland City Council and other parties and a Management Plan will be drafted. The Museum will continue in a consultant/contractor role to provide research on the project, which has the potential to be an important educational and tourism precinct

Numerous research requests were fulfilled: provided photos for the Royal Historical Society of Qld for their "Lost Brisbane" book; Moreton Bay Oyster Company were supplied materials for the IMA Exhibition;

Research for a book on the history of the management of the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum is well progressed and it is hoped a book will be published early next year.

Elisabeth researched and curated an Exhibition on the history of Pacific Islanders at The Redland Performing Arts Centre for the Pacific Tides Festival. Elisabeth also attended the Oral History Australia Conference in Perth and presented a Paper.

QYAC staff and Pakeri Ruska worked in the Museum files during the year on several different projects.

Some items were loaned for Exhibitions through the year: Redland Art Gallery “Straddie Styles” exhibition which was also subsequently displayed at the Museum; copies of photos for John Parke’s Fish Film Project, and Elisabeth helped facilitate the film evening; to Redland Museum for an Exhibition on Aviation History; to the “Frontier Imaginaries exhibition at the Judith Wright centre and Museum staff participated in a panel discussion.

We had 3 temporary community exhibitions on “Shopping on Stradbroke”, Greg Manning’s tapestries of the origins of Straddie Street names, and “Making History” a project to help with a new Timeline Exhibit.

There were 15 community functions at the Museum and 6 other Island functions were supported by the Museum. 21 stalls were held at various markets and festivals.

The Museum hosted a number of community functions during the year; a sponsors evening and a mullet BBQ for 100 for the Chamber Music Festival; hosted a visit from Australia Council First Nation Curators and provided a historical talk.

Lisa and Elisabeth worked with the Curators of the Jarjums Life Museum Project developing an exhibition at the Museum and they hosted a visit from the children working on the project. 170 people attended the community opening of the exhibition.

The Museum acted as one of the stops for the Point Lookout Surf Lifesaving Club Amazing Race Event and did research for the questions the competitors had to answer in the Museum.

A day of research talks associated with the Moreton Bay Research Station Open Day were hosted at the Museum.

Visitors to the Museum for the year totalled 8150, which included numerous tours with various bus companies.

Museum staff and volunteers attended 15 conferences and seminars and gave 6 Papers or presentations. Staff attended some training forums including one which had a mentoring program of several sessions on training in tourism and advocacy. Staff and volunteers attended a Heritage Leaders Workshop and WW1 Homefront Symposium at the State Library

SAFETY. We start every monthly meeting with a discussion about safety issues and particularly any hazards that need repair. During the year we had no incidents reported but there is an urgent need to make a new front path safer particularly for wheel chairs-

we will be seeking advice in the near future from the Redland City Council health and safety officers.

Solar power panels were installed early in the year using interest earned from Friends of the Museum funds. Since installation the annual saving on power is about \$1650, which gives a payback of four years on the capital cost. A very successful innovation. The Museum was finally connected to the new sewerage line and the septic system was removed. Redland City Council paid for the connection, which was warmly appreciated.

At the end of the year the Museum staff commenced working with Redland City Council staff to draft a new 4-year Memorandum of Understanding covering the use of the buildings and the Operating Grant provided by Council.

Our thanks and appreciation to sponsors, donors, Friends of the Museum and Redland City Council. We appreciate the Council maintaining their support of a Grant for operating costs of \$62600. We could not survive without it. Generous donations were received during the year from the Heaslop family The Bowman family, the RSL Dunwich sub-branch, Peter Spinner, Mark Robinson, and SIMO. Some of those donations helped us get Lisa and Elisabeth to Auckland to receive the National Award. Sibelco generously printed our Newsletters through the year and thank you.

Rick Lewis generously donated his time and materials to construct a safe stand for the Ferry propeller.

We would like welcome three new Friends of the Museum, Rob Wills, Suzanne Dixon and recently Mick Bright, and Ursula Cotterill. Thank you the interest from the Friends of the Museum funds are a valuable resource for unexpected costs or for items such as the solar power installations.

Unfortunately, in August we lost one of our long standing members Estelle Jarvis and our condolences are with her families and many friends on the Island.

I want to thank our hard working small band of staff and volunteers. By the nature of our Island communities we have limited numbers of willing helpers, but they perform a very important service to the communities and provide the heart and soul of the Museum. The special diligent band of cumquat processors and marmalade makers continue to make a healthy contribution to our revenue. And a new innovation this year were two Jamborees of marmalade makers.

Mike Ricks was a willing volunteer maintenance manager all year, and Heather Way continued with her production of the hand towels- one of our top revenue eaners.

Particularly we want to thank Barbara Smith and Margaret Nash who are standing down after many years as Vice President and Secretary and in Margaret's case she has been Treasurer forever. Margaret was one of the early initiators of the Museum. They will both maintain their membership on the Management Committee and Barbara will continue to work on the displays. As acknowledgment of their valuable contribution we would like to award them Life Membership of the Museum. Thank you Margaret and Barbara.

2016/2017 will be challenging and interesting for North Stradbroke Island as the communities adjust during a time of rapidly increasing change. The Museum will aim to record the significant historical social changes, and while we will be diligent in being objective and fair regarding the merits or otherwise of those changes, we will advocate strongly to protect Cultural Heritage.

Geoff Moore

President North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum