



NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND MUSEUM ON MINJERRIBAH
ANNUAL REPORT
September 15 2018

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report for 2017/2018.

This year we changed the name of the Museum to North Stradbroke Island Museum on Minjerribah, but it is not just a name change. It is acknowledgement that our Museum is on Quandamooka Country. We also produced a map “YURA” which displays the names of places on Minjerribah in Jandai Language. I think the map is really special and possibly unique in Australia although people in several other locations are working on restoring Language to local places. These developments are significant in the history of the Museum and they evolved with a lot of thought and discussion. The map particularly took nearly two years of research and consultation with many people and must be considered as a work in progress, because many of the names shown are still subject to discussion and agreement.

Lisa completed her Fellowship at the State Library and later today she is going to tell us about her Research. As part of the process she gave presentations at the Library and elsewhere about her research into Inebriate Inmates at the Benevolent Institution. At times, it was a difficult and depressing job with so many sad stories and bureaucratic ignorance, but it told stories of forgotten people many of them damaged souls returned from World War 1, and it continued for the following 30 years and more.

Elisabeth was awarded an internship with the Australian National Maritime Museum and the Queensland Maritime Museum to research their collections and collection management. While in Sydney she spent time in the Mitchell Library researching Moreton Bay maritime history.

Thanks to our diligent Secretary we now have active committees to look after such important issues as Collection Management and Exhibitions, and as a result we are finally making strong headway against the tide of incoming artefacts since Ellie Durbidge left and since we installed the new compactus. Thank you to the committee members and staff working diligently on these committees lead by Tracy Ryan and Howard Guille.

A highlight this year was the production and launch in September of a new publication *“A Brief Introduction to the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum”*, which is a popular seller. It is a pre-cursor to a larger publication planned for 2018.

For the last two Annual Reports, I have reported on our need to construct a new safer entrance to the Museum. The entrance needs to be upgraded for safer access particularly for senior and disabled visitors, but also because it has been degraded over the years by erosion. An entrance has been designed and engineering detail completed and I want to thank the people who have contributed to this work, some pro bono. The estimated total cost including inspections and certification is \$30,000. All permits and the approvals process for certification, have been obtained and funding is being sought from RCC prior to construction, which we are hoping will be completed before the Christmas holidays. The entrance is being implemented under the Memorandum of Understanding with RCC and the actual entrance to the Museum buildings is on the block held by Redland City Council (RCC). A Grant of \$5,000 was received from the Redland Community Fund from the generous Bequest of the Underhill family. A Grant has also been applied for from the RCC Capital Infrastructure Fund.

A new 5-year Memorandum of Understanding with Redland City Council was negotiated through the year and signed in December.

We continued to liaise with Redland City Council Officers to help create a Management Plan for the Dunwich/Goompi Foreshore Project to protect and research the many significant European and Aboriginal Cultural sites along the foreshore. Progress has been sporadic but we will continue to actively ensure these sites are protected and appreciated.

Collection Management

Many significant documents and books were received from Dunwich State School during the year for safekeeping at the Museum. Gail Bell and Debbie Phillips facilitated the process and the collection will be collated and catalogued and held here at the Museum.

SIMO donated a large archive to the Museum and two SIMO members are collating and cataloguing the documents.

Staff continued working with Uncle Bob Anderson and his family on his personal collection he has given to the Museum.

Relocating all the documents and artefacts in the Ellie Durbidge Archive Room has proved a huge and challenging task as expected. Many extra actions have been initiated

such as removing all the historic negatives of photographs from the old wooden drawers to store them separately for better preservation. These are a significantly valuable part of our collection. As Collection Manager, Tracy Ryan has undertaken the huge task of relabeling and storing the collection items- Ellie would be so proud of her. Archival storage supplies for this preservation were purchased with a generous donation and from the interest earned from the Friends of the Museum account.

Mick Bright has spent many hours thoroughly cleaning and cataloguing the Benevolent Asylum carpenter's tools donated by Betty Robinson. He is also photographing them using a special stand he designed and engineered himself, which we will be able to use to document the collection.

A meeting with Walker family representatives and several of their advisors in April helped clarify ongoing management of the collection because Dennis Walker had been one of two Trustees appointed under Oodgeroo's Will.

Research

The Museum provides and completes a lot of research for many purposes, but one of the most important functions is providing details of Benevolent Asylum inmates to descendants. For many it is quite emotional to discover information that fills in a historic and genealogical void and particularly if we can show them the approximate area where the ancestors are buried in the cemetery. Althea Vickers and John Winterbotham diligently answer these requests.

A list of some of the research topics is; WW1 soldiers for the Redland Library book; fishing in Moreton Bay particularly Wynnum and Stradbroke Island; research for an article on the "Otter" for the Australian Association of Maritime History; on inmates of the Benevolent Asylum, generally and also particularly from WW1 with valuable contributions from John Winterbotham; on wrecks for the Australian Maritime Museum; on shorebirds; the Cape Moreton Lighthouse; the ships "Lady Loch" and "Phoebe Dunbar"; and on American Civil Veterans buried in the Benevolent Asylum Cemetery

Old photographs of past events at Terra Bulla Lumeah were located and provided for the Minjerribah Moorgumpin Aboriginal Elders.

Exhibitions

A Display "*Pumped- the history of Yerroll Creek and fresh water to Dunwich*", was opened in July 2017.

A community display was curated and installed during the summer months- *“Beaching it – Saltwater swimming on Minjerribah”*, which included a captioned slideshow of old photographs.

A large national traveling exhibition *“Submerged”* compiled by the Australian Maritime Museum was installed in the Museum for February and March. It documented many significant shipwrecks around the Australian coast and included the Contribution from us on the *“Sovereign”* and its story. A morning tea was held for local people to introduce this large exhibition.

In June, an exhibition- *“Jalu- the Social History of Fire”* was installed and opened as part of the Quandamooka Festival. Pages from Angela Puata’s book *“Jagi”* were laminated and installed as part of the *“Jalu”* exhibition.

Several display plinths were donated by Redland Gallery. Mike Ricks singlehandedly transport them to the Museum, repainted them, attached handles and helped install them in the main Gallery. Thank you, Mike.

Education

About 2000 students visited the Museum in tour groups, plus classes from Dunwich State School. Presentations were given to all groups in compliance with their school curriculums.

Dunwich State School Year 2 were taken on an excursion to the Dunwich Hall to study a place of local and state significance.

In August, the Museum hosted a Quandamooka Festival event on *“The Colouring of Australia’s History”*. There were presentations by Dr Ray Ray Kerkhove on *“Eulope and the battle of Moongalba”* and Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson on *“Cannibalizing Cook: the possessive logics of patriarchal white sovereignty”*. It was well attended and opened up new thinking and topics about the impacts of colonisation. The presentations stimulated substantial discussion including what and where conflict occurred and about the naming and placement of ‘monuments’.

Staff Development

Staff attended a 2-day Exhibition Development Workshop organized by the Brisbane Living Heritage Network

Lisa attended a Museums and Galleries Skills Development workshop on Legal and Ethical Frameworks learning about the practical issues around ethical collection management.

Staff and volunteers attended a workshop on Copyright organized by the State Library. They also participated in a consultation session lead by lawyer Terri Janke- who is well known to us – who has been contracted by Museums Australia to create an Indigenous Roadmap to advance the participation and representation, over the next 10 years, of Aboriginal and Torre Strait Islander people in museums and galleries.

Liaising with other Institutions

Staff worked with Redlands Museum helping curate the “*Bohemia*” exhibitions about the Agnew family who lived on and enlivened Dunwich and The Benevolent Asylum and also ran the Post Office. The Exhibition was opened at Redland Museum in November.

Lisa and Elisabeth researched and helped edit an ANZAC book produced by Redland Library honouring Soldiers from Redland City who went to WW1. When the book was launched at Cleveland Library in April, Lisa spoke about the 22 soldiers from Stradbroke who went to WW1.

We partnered with Redland City Council libraries to host a Family Fun Day with the “Snake Boss” and 12 live snakes! Over 140 people attended.

QYAC staff members were shown through the Museum collection.

Staff attended the AGM of the Queensland Oral History and Elisabeth was elected President and re-elected again in 2018.

Howard and Geoff attended the Coochiemudlo Historical Society AGM, and Howard gave a very informative presentation on Heritage listing and registering places of historical significance. The group were very appreciative and gave a generous donation the Dunwich Museum. A letter very strongly endorsing our support for Heritage Listing of the Coochiemudlo Emerald Fringe was drafted by Howard in June, and sent to the Coochiemudlo Historical Society.

The Museum hosted a group from the Queensland Museum Network’s Museum Development Officers. They came from all over the State and were observing the practices implemented at Dunwich Museum, which could be used at other regional Museums in Queensland.

Community Functions

We assisted the Walker family research material for the Memorial Service in January for Dennis Walker who passed away in December.

A stall was held during NAIDOC at an Elders function at Terra Bulla Lumeah. Thanks to Aunty Evelyn Parkin for giving the Museum a presence at these and many other community functions,

Many meetings were held on the veranda for making and storing Boomerang Bags.

Several Museum members attended a moving traditional, healing and smoking ceremony at the Deanbilla Bora ring. Many Island Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal residents attended the ceremony and the following BBQ.

A community meeting was organized at the Museum with stakeholders of the *"Sovereign"* story. The *"Sovereign"* was sunk in 1842 in the South Passage near Amity with a loss of 44 people, but 10 were saved by 6 local Quandamooka people.

A community morning tea was held for former resident Ken Howlett- he lived in the front office when it was a mining company flat. He shared his collection of photographs with some of the older residents. In June, another morning tea was held for people living in Dunwich in the 1950s and 1960s and titled *"Living Together"*. It was a very successful and enjoyable function with over 60 people and many of the photographs were from Ken Howlett's collection.

In June, the Museum hosted a function to celebrate the 40th Birthday of SIMO. Both SIMO and the Museum have a lot to acknowledge to Ellie Durbidge so it was a real pleasure to host the Anniversary and celebrate with many people such as Errol Stock who made significant contributions to SIMO's community actions. Elisabeth provided Oral History advice and recorded the animated discussion during the meeting.

Fund raising

The largest financial contribution is from Redland City Council, and we thank them for continued support of the Museum.

We thank the Friends of the Museum for their donations and support, and the interest earned from their donations is providing many essential capital items. During the year we welcomed new Friends of the Museum, Helen and Stuart Cameron, Joan Benham, Mike & Judy Hines and Graeme Orr, thank you.

Joan Benham organized a Monster Jumble Sale at Point Lookout and as a result donated \$1446 to the Museum. Thank you Joan, it was a great effort.

The many donors to the Museum were; Dolphin Real Estate, Brian Sheahan, Charlie and Thelma Bowman, Costello family, Geraldine Trivett, Tracy Ryan, Fran Quinn, Pater Spinner, and Will and Lorna Heaslop.

The 2017 mullet BBQ for Chamber Music festival patrons was very successful raising over \$600. Since the end of the reporting year we have repeated the mullet BBQ and the financial return this year was higher with better management. Thank you to the dedicated volunteers for their help on the BBQ and the preparations.

We continued to hold stalls at the Point Lookout Markets and at many community functions at Dunwich and Point lookout including at some of the many activities during the Quandamooka Festival and these contribute significantly to our general revenue.

Marmalade production during the year has been erratic due to low rainfall late last year. The trees just ran dry and we had no marmalade for a few months. However, production is now good with better rain, but also due to installation of very efficient irrigation for all the trees by Mike Hines and his family, so thank you to the Hines family. Thank you to the marmalade makers who I personally named in last year's Annual Report.

Total visitors for the year were 7669 including over 2000 students on excursions or from Dunwich State School. There were many bus tours for seniors and other groups including 45 Greeters from Brisbane City Council.

During the year we lost Aunty Margaret Iselin, she will be sorely missed in the community. Dennis Walker passed away in December. He and his daughter Petrina were the principals who helped locate and house the personal collection of Oodgeroo at the Museum.

I thank all our volunteers for their enthusiasm and support and this year. We welcomed several new volunteers who have added their enthusiasm and skills to the Museum. We had two morning teas for volunteers during the year and invited any interested people to come and find out about the Museum. Most of the new volunteers first came to those morning teas- the power of morning tea!

Thanks to Sibelco and Karen McGill for continuing to print our newsletter. As I said earlier Althea Vickers continued her tireless and important processing of requests from descendants to DBA inmates. Kate and Jonathan Hodge maintained and improved our

quite sophisticated computer systems even from Chile where they now live! Mike Ricks continued his generous general maintenance around the Museum. The Manns collected and delivered the newspapers throughout the year, so we can maintain our clipping service. Heather Way and Jean Cooke produced their hand towels for sale at the Museum and the markets and stalls. Thank you to all those generous volunteers.

Lisa and Elisabeth did far more during the year than we could ever afford to pay them to run the Museum. Heather Shilling kept the Museum beautifully clean with many small touches we really appreciate. Thank you all.

Finally, thank you to the Committee for your effort and support this year. Particularly I want to thank Constance Millar who is standing down from the Committee after 13 years and Judy Hines who was on the committee for many years but more importantly she and Mike have been prime marmalade makers for even more years.

Geoff Moore

President, North Stradbroke Island Museum on Minjerribah