



NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION INC.

ANNUAL REPORT

29th September 2012

On behalf of the North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum Association, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2011-2012 Annual General Meeting. I welcome Councillor Craig Ogilvie and Councillor Paul Bishop, who is the Redland City Council representative on the Management Committee of the Museum, Friends of the Museum, Dr Margaret Grace, Gordon Davidson from Redland Museum, Jo Besley, Principal Arts Development Officer for Arts Queensland, Museum members and guests. I also want to welcome our guest speakers today Robyn Hofmeyr and Aunty Sandra Morgan, both from the Cherbourg Ration Shed Museum.

The Annual Report 2011/2012

We have a very exciting announcement to make. We been granted a Bequest from the Jani Haenke Charitable Trust, subject to finalising some conditions, and I am pleased to acknowledge one of the Trustees here today, Dr Margaret Grace. This substantial Bequest will be used to catalogue and digitize the Oodgeroo Collection over the next three years, and to make the digitised material accessible to the public. We have an Agreement with the Walker family for this work, and Petrina Walker and other family members will be working with the Museum staff. As I said to the Trustees last week this is a unique opportunity to preserve a collection of national and international importance, made more significant because the collection is "in place", that is where it was collected and created, and the preservation and digitisation work will be done by direct family descendents. I think it is exciting for Petrina and the family, for the Museum and for the Stradbroke Island community. I thank you Margaret and the other Trustees. The Bequest will allow us to continue working on the Oodgeroo Collection, because the three year financial support of \$50,000 per year from Redland City Council finished in June this year. We thank the Council for this initial funding which covered the urgent preservation of the physical collection. In addition, the Museum Committee and staff attended a Cultural Heritage Education Program coordinated by the Walker Family at Amity, when the Oodgeroo Collection Management Deed was formally signed and witnessed by Mayor Karen Williams.

During the year, three of our members passed away and we acknowledge their contribution and passing: Uncle Pat Iselin a long standing resident and Aboriginal Elder, Lynne Harland's husband Bob who kept all the computers and televisions operating in the Amity community, we welcome Lynne back to the Friday volunteers, and Betty Crouchley, one of the initial Friends of the Museum. We give our condolences to their families.

The new Redland City Council endorsed the decision made in 2011 to increase the annual operational support funding to \$59,000, which represents 25%-30% of our operating costs. We appreciate this continued support from the Council in a time of economic constraint at all levels of Government.

A new financial initiative, the "Friends of Stradbroke Museum" was launched in 2011. Funds raised are to be used for particular projects and to cover large outlays. I am happy to announce that to date we have 14 Friends and we have gratefully received \$14,200 in cash and in-kind donations. We have commissioned a display artwork to be placed in the lobby acknowledging all the Friends of the Museum. To date we have spent \$6700 reprinting *Historic North Stradbroke Island* thanks to Friends Stradbroke Ferries and Boolarong Press.

An exciting event this year was the installation of the Mil Binnung exhibition in the Queensland State Library. This exhibition was jointly curated by Redland Museum and Stradbroke Museum and first exhibited in each of the Museums. The opening at the State Library was attended by about 100 visitors and it was officially opened by Jackie Trad, State MP for Brisbane.

We have had three temporary exhibits this year; on The History of Freshwater on Stradbroke Island; the second was about Eugaries as an important part of Island culture; and the current exhibit about the recovery of the humpback whale that washed up on Main Beach.

In February 2012 Elisabeth Gondwe (NSIHM) and Robyn Hofmeyr (Cherbourg Ration Shed Museum) were granted a bursary for a Staff Exchange / Co-Mentorship. Elisabeth had a preliminary visit to Cherbourg to coincide with the opening of the Cherbourg Timeline Exhibition and NAIDOC Celebrations. We welcome Robyn and Aunty Sandra Morgan for their reciprocal preliminary visit to our museum. Over 2013 we hope to benefit from this exchange and sharing of ideas, relationship and professional expertise. Members of our Museum Committee will also take part in a visit to the Cherbourg Ration Shed Museum.

The Museum staff continued developing exciting relationships and programs with the local school as part of our aim to engage with the community - and during the year several of us attended a very stimulating and compassionate lecture on community engagement by Jo Besley. A RADF Project, with the school and Dr Barbara Piscitelli, commenced in 2010/2011 and included a September school holiday program based on Oodgeroo's book *Father Sky, Mother Earth*. The project team, led by Dr Barbara Piscitelli, worked with artists, teachers, volunteers and the Year 3 and 4 children from Dunwich State School over a semester, which culminated in a very successful exhibition - *Special Island Places - Magical Landscapes* in December. Thank you to the State Library of Queensland for the generous donation of frames. To complete the RADF grant we have created an historic walk illustrated with photographs from our collection and an interpretive and educational Dunwich Benevolent Asylum board game for visiting schools. It is called "Rattle Your Bones" and the winner is the last person to die and end up in the Dunwich Cemetery.

This project has opened the way for a lot more projects with Dunwich State School through the year and the teachers have also had staff meetings at the Museum to discuss ways to use Museum resources in National Curriculum programming across a wide range of subject areas.

An Indigenous Knowledge Centre Co-ordinators workshop was held at the State Library from the 29th August to the 3rd of September 2011. Petrina and Elisabeth attended the program on the Tuesday and Wednesday. The Indigenous Knowledge Centre Coordinators from around the State later visited the Museum. The Museum staff participated in discussions and planning for the long term future of Stradbroke Island, in a program initiated by the previous State Government. The Museum was awarded a contract with the State Government Task Force to produce an analysis of the potential for education as an industry based on the Island - this resulted in a substantial and valuable submission titled "Education Island", authored by Howard Guille, Peter Kelleher, and Lisa Jackson.

Museum staff completed a report jointly with Tracy Ryan of RCC on the archeological work on the Dunwich cemetery and received \$7000 for the contract on completion of the research.

In August 2011 Dr Graeme Were and 19 University of Queensland Museum Studies post-graduate students visited the Museum for a workshop on community engagement, as a part of our cooperative program with the University. Another cohort of these students are attending a similar workshop this coming week. In July – October 2011 we had a PhD Student from Griffith University, Veronika Neuzilova undertaking a study of inter-racial interactions and relations on North Stradbroke Island at the turn of the 20th century.

The Australian Languages Workshop Conference used the Museum as a venue for an evening function and the Museum staff coordinated Aboriginal dances and speeches for the evening. Three staff and a volunteer attended a two-day Languages Workshop at the Queensland State Library.

The Museum was the subject of a Master's thesis written by ANU post-graduate Suzanne Gibson. Called "None of This is Easy", it compared the museological practices and structures of our Museum with a community museum in Lismore - another winner of the ABC Radio National Best Regional Museum award. Suzanne interviewed all the committee members, staff and also many community members, and her insights and analysis provided much food for thought.

We were awarded a RADF grant to convert the book by Uncle Bob Anderson *History, Life and Times of Robert Anderson, Gheebelum, Ngugi, Mulgumpin*, to PDF, and it can now be downloaded from the Museum website.

The Bay Players held an entertaining and humorous play reading and social evening at the Museum, and the Lines in the Sand festival combined their official launch with the annual Museum's Alight night to celebrate International Museums Day.

We continued our annual tradition of providing tea and Anzac biscuits after the ANZAC day ceremony at the memorial and over 100 visitors enjoyed the social occasion.

The committee members were invited to attend a High Tea for local seniors to raise money for the Cancer Council. This was an historic occasion because it was totally and very well catered, and with student entertainers, by the High School students and was the last function before the school ceased operating as part of Dunwich State School. It was an impressive, emotional and very enjoyable event.

Through the year we continued to strongly support professional development and training for the volunteers and staff. Elisabeth attended the Queensland Regional Arts Conference *Artspoken*, 12-15 October 2011 in Bundaberg. Redland City Council Cultural Development Officer Elise Parups presented a paper about the Mil Binnung Project. Five committee members attended a professional development workshop about the National History Curriculum at the Queensland Rail Workshops Museum. Five committee members attended the Small Museums Conference in Kirra. And Lisa Jackson attended the National Museums Conference in Perth in 2011 and was excited about the many things we could do - if only we had the resources!

A large group of volunteers visited the Miegunyah Historic House in Newstead Brisbane, to spend time with their volunteers and understand the many similar challenges as we have. We invited the volunteers for a return visit to NSI Museum.

Petrina Walker, Talisah Edwards and Elisabeth Gondwe attended the 2011 M&GSQ State Conference in Mackay on the 11th – 13th of August. They presented a paper entitled "Moongalba to Museum: A collaboration between the Walker family and the North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum."

Our internal practices were significantly improved during the year, with the investment in a new leading technology database for collection management. Lorraine Winchester was granted a Life Membership as a mark of our gratitude for her extensive and frustrating but ultimately successful work on the new accessioning program. All our accounting is now done electronically. We also launched a new and more interactive website during the year and over time and subject to other demands we will be adding to and upgrading it. The Museum now has a Facebook page! We also had to replace most of our computer hardware last summer due to yet another lightning strike - luckily we were covered under our insurance.

There were 5623 visitors to the Museum during the year, which is a 16% increase over last year. Visitors in tours were 1252. The increase in the total visitors is due to several factors, the general increase in visitors to the Island since the worst of the economic conditions and

its impact on tourism, better weather over the Christmas holidays, and the focus brought to the Island by the State Government declaring new National parks and bringing forward the cessation of mining.

A number of financial grants were awarded during the year mostly aimed at particular projects:

	\$
GVEHO Grant	2300
Department of Families, Arts and Culture Volunteer Grant	5000
GVESHO	2500
Jani Haenke Charitable Trust Interim funding	10000
MAGSQ Mentorship	3000
Redland City Council Oodgeroo Project	50000
Redland City Council Operational Support	59000
State Government Grant	25000
Total	156,000

The Marmalade Makers Judy and Mike Hines, and Bruce Martin, continued their diligent labours making cumquat, pomelo and orange marmalade throughout the year, ably assisted by Margaret and Les Nash. With the good crop this year and other sources of fruit the revenue was \$3626, 20% more than last year- a commendable and valuable service for the Museum and for our satisfied customers, thank you Judy, Mike, Bruce, Margaret and Les.

Thank you also to Island Design and Printing, Dolphin Real Estate, Dolphin Holiday Accommodation, Rufus King Seafoods and Dunwich Newsagency for their sponsorship, which assists with the production costs of our new DL flyer, which you will find in businesses and noticeboards all over the Island. It is a valuable marketing tool for us, and assistance with the printing costs is appreciated.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Museum and they have continued with their generous support throughout the year, ably supported by our highly proficient and ever patient Administrator and Researcher. We welcomed a number of new volunteers to the ranks this year – and held an enjoyable morning tea and workshop to “induct” the new helpers into the fold. We are now open 6 and often 7 days a week, we maintain a booth at all Point Lookout markets and many other events, and we keep the Museum and its many functions operating efficiently and continue with many improvements. Please show our gratitude for their great efforts and contribution to the Museum and to the community. The recorded

volunteer hours for the year were 4632 but that figure is more a reflection of our collective underestimations than the actual hours worked. The geography of the Island means we all do a lot of work out of the Museum, at home, or on the mainland and we are not good at recording this - actually we are unduly modest.

The volunteers and staff supervised 4 juvenile community service placements during the year and the Museum's contribution to this program was acknowledged with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Youth Justice Team at the Community Service Department.

2012/2013 has started just as busy as last year, and despite the workload we will continue to strive to be an essential part of our local and cultural communities, and keep the Museum as a vibrant and challenging and exciting place to be.

Geoff Moore

President

29th September, 2012