



**NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND HISTORICAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION INC.**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**14th September 2013**

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report for 2012/2013. As always it has been a very busy and a very rewarding year for the Museum, the volunteers and for the staff. Exciting developments for the Museum during the year were the interaction with Dunwich State School and other schools, the work on the Oodgeroo Collection, and the involvement with many community groups collecting both past and contemporary history.

The most rewarding developments during the year were the interactive programs with Dunwich State School and other schools. It was particularly gratifying to see Dunwich Grade One classes in the Museum on a weekly basis and the simple, exciting history presented to them. The Museum staff were proud recipients of a Certificate of Appreciation from Dunwich State School for the classroom activities. Other classes from Dunwich and regional schools have enjoyed many interesting projects and visits using educational materials and information prepared by Elisabeth, Lisa and the volunteers. The material is being prepared to comply with the new National History Curriculum. Also the Museum staff provided a historical-based worksheet for the Dunwich State School whole-school Walkathon at Point Lookout.

The Museum formed an ongoing relationship with the Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre, which will involve visits from South East Queensland State and High Schools. We also joined the Redlands/Bayside Cluster, School Community Partnership Agreement, which is an alliance of schools around Moreton Bay.

Work on the Oodgeroo Collection continued very effectively for most of the year, and the collection, which was significantly extended during the year, has now been completely preserved, catalogued and housed safely in the Museum. Unfortunately the working relationship with the Walker family was severely strained late in the year and the proposed digitising program has been suspended. Discussions are continuing with the Walker family and with the Jani Haenke Trustees who were generously funding the digitising.

A highlight during the year was a "road show" display and presentations at Amity Point. It was the first in a planned series of community displays and was very successful with 80 people attending and the collection of over 500 photos and documents, which have been scanned into the Museum collection and the originals returned to the owners. A follow up meeting is planned in the near future and another at Point Lookout early next year.

The very active program of collecting contemporary history continued through the year with focus on fishing, community photos from Amity Point, and Catholic history.

A large display to celebrate 170 years since the Catholic Passionists established the first Catholic Mission to the Aboriginals in Australia, and a "Growing up Catholic" display to celebrate Catholic history on the Island; they, were both curated by Michael Aird. An opening ceremony at the Museum, by the Catholic Archbishop of Brisbane, Mark Coleridge, was a very successful community celebration with over 200 people. The display temporarily replaced most of the permanent displays in the main gallery for 2 months and many visitors enjoyed the exhibits.

Temporary community displays related to the Historic Amity Pilot Station, a beached whale on Main Beach, and fresh water on North Stradbroke.

A new Online Heritage Trail was created and installed and won an International Google Outreach Award. Google featured the Trail on their social media Pages, which resulted in a significantly increased number of "hits" on our Website. The website and the Facebook page were updated, and the computer software and back-up systems were also updated and we thank Jonathan and Kate Hodge for their generous efforts and expertise.

Late last year a ground penetrating radar survey was completed near the old Convict Garrison by Allen Gontz a geophysicist researcher from the University of Massachusetts, who was visiting the University of Queensland Marine Research Station. His investigations very clearly defined a tunnel running direct from the "privy pit" about 15-20 metres to the projected wall of the old garrison- we now suspect it was a safe access tunnel from the high tide level into the Military Garrison, during the convict settlement in 1828-1831.

The Museum has been very active in fostering relationships with other institutions such as Redland Museum and Redland Gallery, Queensland Museum, the Museum of Brisbane, the University of Queensland, and the Royal Society of Queensland. The Irwin family and 50 wildlife warriors from Australia Zoo visited Straddie and the Museum.

A lot of functions were held during the year and the highlights were; hosting the Australian Languages Workshop, hosting the University of Queensland Museum Studies for their annual field workshop, hosting two functions each for the Lines in the Sand Festival and the Chamber Music Festival. The Annual International Museums Alight celebration had the theme of "Social Change" this year, and NSIHM prepared a display featuring the successful Bridge Protest of 1987/1988. As in past years we had an open morning tea and anzac biscuits for ANZAC Day and a large number of visitors enjoyed the morning. The annual Seniors Week function last year had a mini-market and morning tea, and this year the function only 3 weeks ago was an entertaining concert by James Largessner and his musical partner Cliff, celebrating the history of Cloud Land ballroom. Both functions were well attended by over 40 visitors. The annual Straddie Shorts film festival was again held at the Museum.

The Museum was part of the "A Taste of Straddie" event, which was promoting Stradbroke Island as a short term tourist destination for people in Redlands and Brisbane. The event was successful despite torrential rain on the first day. Historical walking tours around the heritage sites of Dunwich, helped promote day trips to Dunwich and the Museum.

Three Committee members attended a successful Small Museums Conference in Toowoomba and enjoyed visits to several local Museums. The volunteers also visited several Institutions and Museums in the Brisbane area including Meigunyah historic house at Newstead, and the Canning Stock Route exhibition at Queensland Museum.

An article was published in the Queensland Journal of Labour History and another on the history of beach mining on North Stradbroke Island was published in a Royal Society of Queensland Journal. A presentation on community museums was made to the University of Queensland Museum Studies Masters students. Two presentations and many tours were given on the historically significant Dunwich Cemetery, and I am pleased to tell you Althea Vickers has volunteered to conduct regular tours of the cemetery on the first Saturday of each month.

The Museum continued to provide community service placement for local young offenders.

Drafting a new Business Plan for 2014-2019, commenced late in the year with help from Anne Bailey MAGSQ, Jo Besley from University of Queensland Museum Studies, and Councillor Paul Bishop, and the meetings were kindly facilitated by Ross Bower from Redland Museum. A final draft is currently being collated and should be ratified at our next Committee meeting.

During the year a new Maxus data base was finally established for accessioning. This was a long and difficult process and all the volunteers who achieved it should be commended.

There were 6660 visitors to the Museum in 2012/2013, compared with 5623 in 2011/2012, which is an increase of 18%. The increase is due mostly to the school activities and to promotion of Stradbroke Island as a day trip and short term destination.

A grant of \$3000 was received from the National Library of Australia, Community Heritage, for archival supplies. We won a "Your Community Grant" from the Federal Government for a project based on the Dunwich Hall Centenary and the Benevolent Asylum- the project will commence in September 2013. Our guest speaker today is Howard Guille who will be describing this project and will collaborate it over the next 12 months.

A National Library of Australia Community Heritage Grant for archival supplies, separate to the new Grant mentioned above, was completed and acquitted during the year.

Redland City Council maintained their financial support of almost \$60,000 for the Museum, which represents 25-30% of our operating costs. We appreciate this continued recognition from the Council in a time of economic constraint at all levels of Government. The funding is a significant help in maintaining the Museum and its services to the Island communities.

The Heaslop family made an additional donation as Friends of the Museum, which we appreciate.

The Museum made a modest cash surplus of \$39,699 from ordinary activities for the year. Total Assets of \$721,295 increased from \$686,319 in 2012. We are thankful for the financial support from the Jani Haenke Trustees during the year, and while the digitising project and the funding have been suspended we have been applying for Grants to cover new projects for the coming year.

I thank and commend the volunteers and staff for their diligence and support during a busy and at times challenging year. Recorded volunteer hours were 6660, but this is in no way a measure of the actual effort that goes into activities such as marmalade production and many hours completing some functions from our homes. The Marmalade Makers Judy and Mike Hines, Bruce Martin, and a new maker Elizabeth Butterworth, continued their labours making cumquat, pomelo and Seville orange marmalade throughout the year. With the good crop this year and other sources of fruit the revenue was \$4500, 25% more than last year- a commendable and valuable service for the Museum and for our satisfied customers, thank you

Judy, Mike, Bruce, and Elizabeth. We badly need more help with making the marmalade because Mike is on light duties due to marmalade-cutting induce arthritis, and we thank him for his efforts cutting up something like 900Kgs of cumquats. If anybody can help even in a small way we would appreciate it as this is an essential money-earner for the Museum.

A working bee was held and was very well attended by volunteers to thoroughly clean the buildings and the galleries and artefacts. This was followed by a sausage and fresh mullet sizzle. An enjoyable morning tea was held for the volunteers and to encourage new volunteers.

Heather Way who produces the hand towels is also a significant contributor to our earnings. The hand towels are a very popular item particularly at Christmas and Easter. Thank you Heather. We are grateful for the generous time and effort volunteered by many people, particularly Mike Ricks, Bill Rhodes, Richard Smith from the Mary Rose Centre, Jonathan and Kate Hodge, and Jalum Fishery and Rick Perry who donated fresh mullet to give a little class to our sausage sizzles.

We appreciate the help from Sibelco Mining who generously print our Newsletter and helps out in other ways, and Dunwich State School who give us the papers from which we extract Island-related clippings to add to our valuable collection.

Stan Crowther, Grandfather of Sean and Craig Ogilvie, worked most of the year cataloguing the news clippings and is very nearly completed. Stan is not well at the moment and we wish him a speedy recovery and return to the Museum.

Finally I thank the Museum Committee for their support and enthusiasm through a challenging year.

2013/2014 has started just as busy as last year, and we will continue to strive to be an active member of our local and cultural communities, and to keep the Museum as a vibrant and welcoming place to be.

Geoff Moore

President North Stradbroke Historical Museum Inc. 14th September 2013