

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to 2015 for the Coochiemudlo Island Heritage Society Inc!

We have taken delivery of the data projector. It is a BenQ W1070 that is good quality and effective. It can handle high definition inputs (HDMI) and even 3D movies. The Community Gambling Benefits Fund funded it. The projector is available for use by the Island community.

As a start, I would like to give a presentation around the idea behind my book (Why It's OK to Talk to Your Dog). This idea has been mentioned in The Oxford Handbook of Ecocriticism, released in August 2014. However I have taken the idea two steps further to discuss the cat and non-seasonal ovulation in human evolution. I gave a presentation at the University of Sydney in July 2013, and would like to repeat it here, if anyone is interested. This one would be an adults only presentation. The plan is an evening with BYO drinks and bikkies up at the History Room. Perhaps a Wednesday evening, say 7pm? Or in the weekend? Could be during the day too. Comments on the most suitable time are welcome. This could lead to other occasional presentations.

The first payment for the enhancement of the Doug and Mary Morton Reserve has been received and is in our bank -- \$10,291. We have begun discussions with the Redland City Council concerning work place health and safety, and permissions to occupy the site. Peter Webb is directing the project. Redland City Council has begun a similar approvals process to build a twin burner barbecue and shelter on the site of the Junior Progress bbq near the old tennis court. This should be completed well before we get serious, so we shall be able to use it to establish levels etc.

The new pontoon jetty at Coochiemudlo is almost complete. It will have a sign "Coochiemudlo Island". We have suggested to our Councillor a sub-name to recognise our history. Examples are Phillips Landing (the jetty was originally built by the Phillips family), Carefree Landing (Carefree was Bruce Phillips' boat), Dick Whitehall (who started the regular ferry service), his ferry the Tondelao (we have a wonderful photo of her and nearly everyone who lived here at that time, that could be part of the sign) and also the Titan who clocked up many kilometres on the run, and so on. Ideas welcome. The Island needs to establish ownership before the graffitistas and vandals take over.

As you know, at the latest Queensland election, presently still limping along, our State MP was replaced. The Society wishes MP Matt Eacham well in his new job. However it is conceivable that the decision on sub-names will be complicated as Ministerial positions are decided, since the jetty is State funded.

This year there will be a State history conference, which this Society is helping to manage. It will be 3-4 October 2015 at Riverglenn Conference Centre, Indooroopilly. And this year we hope to achieve some progress on having our landscape officially recognised as culturally significant.

Best wishes from the Committee, David Paxton, President