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Occasional Newsletter

Dear Members,

At the Annual General Meeting on 3 October 2004, a new Committee was elected, comprising myself as President, Margaret Walker as Vice-President, Norma Green as Committee Member and David Paxton as Secretary/Treasurer. Arthur Chaston kindly consented to audit the Society's books.

The intervening period has been very busy, though the Committee has communicated with Members only at Market Days. Just before Christmas I was quite severely injured and spent a period in hospital, other Committee Members suffered ill-health or were absent overseas.

The Redland Shire Council has agreed to provide room for the Society to store and work on its records at the Community Hall. Over the past year or so, there have been several visits to the Island by Council representatives. There has been a surprising turn-over of Council staff, so new people have had to be briefed. We expected work to have begun by now but have been informed by Council that there are delays in obtaining building approval.

Margaret Walker and I formally accepted a Community Development Grant of \$2,800 to repair the Flinders Day dinghy, which will be called *Trim*. David Paxton is managing this joint project with the Progress Association. Bruce Legg, an experienced boat builder from Russell Island, has worked on the stem and the stern, and fibre-glassed the exterior of the hull. We used a glass twill as the base, because it conforms to the clinker shape. Repairs are almost complete. The Flinders Day Committee of Progress Association has asked that *Trim* be exhibited in the parade this year, so Rob Virtue's fine traditional dinghy will be used again in the re-enactment on 17 July. If you would like to see *Trim*, the dinghy is at the corner of Dawn and Kingfisher Street, courtesy of Kerry Downs and Julie Howe. The Matthew Flinders Café has offered to display the dinghy when it is completed. The cost to date is \$2,802, plus \$77 from Market Day donations for tyres for the trailer.

I represented the Society at the University of Queensland open day at Customs House in Eagle Street, in October 2004.

David Paxton attended a Brisbane Living Heritage Network meeting to discuss a brochure on the 60th Anniversary of the ending of WWII (we missed our opportunity to be mentioned due to disruptions mentioned above, but are working on an idea for a monument). The Society is a member of the Network.

David Paxton and I presented the "First Board" back to the Croquet and Bowls Club at a very pleasant ceremony arranged by the Club's President, Jock Allan, on 29 October at the Recreation Club rooms. The Board was framed for display by Keith Slack and will be mounted on the wall of the Recreation Club. A plaque with

information about the Club was purchased by the Society and fixed to the frame. Keith is also going to carve a nameplate for *Trim*.

A group of us visited Redland Museum, courtesy of Kath McNeilly (President) and Vern Gibson (Coordinator) in November 2004. The museum is excellent and well worth a visit. The volunteers at the museum put on a morning tea for us which was much appreciated.

Joy Fritz updated some of the display boards we use at Market Days. We attended all Market Days which have been held, as well as the very successful Tsunami Relief concert which was held at the Resort. Market Days are an important source of income for the Society, we usually net around \$100 each day from the sale of books and donations. As well as the Committee, members who have been particularly active in this regard are Annie Jamieson and Denise Preston.

The Society has assisted Bill McDowell of the Redland Shire Council with text for new signs which have been erected along the Coochiemudlo Island Track. The Committee and Viv Wright were closely involved in this, and had a number of meetings/discussions with the Council. Other signs will be erected as the limited budget allows. Lorraine Dixon has suggested a sign for the Lone Pine.

Barbara Larsen has documented my recollections of the past 40+ years on Coochiemudlo Island. We applied unsuccessfully to the State Library Board for a grant to publish these. We purchased additional copies of *Characters Coves and Cliffs* from Amphion Press, for sale at Market Days, and also received commission from the sale of *Not Far From Heaven*, published by the Bards of Coochiemudlo, thanks to Diane Gillham.

The Society is facilitating the operations of the very popular Community Library, accepting responsibility for a grant of \$5,000 from the Council.

Financially the Society is able to meet commitments. Thanks to sponsorship from the Queensland Association of Local and Family History Societies our public liability insurance is only about \$330 per year plus about \$60 for compulsory memberships with the Societies and the Office of Fair Trading, but even meeting this amount requires considerable membership support. We want to continue to pursue new projects: for example, according to Redland Museum this Society has an interesting collection of timber getting equipment which could be put on display. Volunteers with experience in rust conversion please note! We shall also maintain our relationship with Pullen Place, which Queensland Police Legacy is developing. Margaret Walker is organizing a fund raising progressive dinner, perhaps for September. We are still supportive of a visit to North Stradbroke Island with the Garden Club. We shall keep you posted on developments.

And, don't forget Flinders Day, 17 July! This year Matthew Flinders will be played by Mark Bowden. Margaret Walker is organizing our float in the parade and you are welcome to join it or help at the market stall.

Ted Jones, President