

Coochiemudlo Island History Society

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Dear Members,

Occasional Newsletter

The Society is alive and well, thanks to your support and an active Management Committee.

The successful kapmurri in November was followed by a birthday party for Matthew Flinders in March, which also used the kapmurri theme. The birthday party was a great success, attended by Matthew himself (impersonating Mark Bowden), John English, Peter and Helen Dowling and over fifty guests. It was held at "Mudlo", the home of Carolyn Brammer and Lindsay Duncan, the moon came up on cue. Beside the little lake the atmosphere was magic. A lot of people did a lot of work but it was worth it, to see everybody enjoying themselves. Woolworths at Victoria Point West donated a wonderful cake and the Fire Brigade supervised the meltdown which heated the rocks – they were still too hot to touch twelve hours later. The two kapmurris have boosted our coffers. At 31 May our bank balance stood at \$1,913.05 in credit. The Society is going to celebrate Flinders' birthday as a regular event and hopes to encourage other organisations to do the same, to make a kind of Flinders' Week.

Trim, the Flinders Day dinghy was stored over the hot summer courtesy of John and Andrew McLellan. Its interior has now been spray painted by Peter Büeschse and then a working party turned it over. Finishing touches to the fibreglass skin are now being made. It is fairly slow work. We have decided to paint the outside a heritage grey, in keeping with the dinghy's naval heritage. The inside has been painted the colour of beach sand. Costs were \$2,800 for repairs covered by a Community Development Grant courtesy of Redland Shire Council plus an over-run for finishing and painting over around \$250 which is only partially covered by donations at Market Days. The Flinders Day Committee of the Progress Association has requested that *Trim* participate in the parade, so Rob Virtue has kindly lent his beautiful lapstrake dinghy for use in the re-enactment of Matthew Flinders' landing, which Mark Bowden from Coochie Resort has agreed to do. Flinders Day 2006 is 16 July.

We are using the History Room at the Community Hall, though the floor has not yet been covered. It is a useful resource, supplemented with a filing cabinet and metal storage cabinet. At last we have a dry place to store records and artefacts.

Courtesy of Grace Chu Te, the Society has a page on coochieisland.com.au and we have written a short history of the Island. If any Members have any comments on this, please let us know.

The Society has subscribed for two years to a wonderful new publication, *Australian Heritage*, and is organizing for the monthly magazine to be held in the Community

Library. The Society is also a member of Brisbane's Living Heritage Network which is organised by the Brisbane City Council and the Queensland Museum.

The Society is also a member of History Queensland, which is the peak body of local and family history societies. History Queensland is hosting the biennial Family History Fair at Mt Gravatt Showground on 3 September. The Society has booked a stall. Members wishing to participate please let us know.

Denise Preston attended a community grants workshop organised by John English MP. She found it most worthwhile and returned with the latest information which will allow us to apply to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for such things as archival standard filing envelopes, furniture and floor coverings, and a fitted cover for the dinghy.

We received several donations in the past six months, notably two split cane fishing rods from the Drennan family, a DVD of past TV segments on the Island from Ian Rowland, and a turned wood vase from the Pine Ridge Chapel.

Barbara Larsen has written an oral history of Ted Jones, entitled *A Pilgrim Against Progress*, which will be launched on 12 July at the Matthew Flinders Café. The Society is donating a bottle of wine, autographed by Deputy Mayor Peter Dowling, as a door prize for the launch. The Markets committee has never charged us for having a stall, because of our not-for-profit nature, but this year we were able to make a small donation (\$25) towards the Markets.

During 2005/6 the Society, as an incorporated body, managed Council grant funds to allow the Community Library to function. We appreciated the help of our auditor, Arthur Chaston on this matter.

Lorraine Dixon-Bone donated letters from ex-members of the Water Transport Division, obtained by Nev Dixon. Our Nev Dixon Collection may be of State or National significance and is being appraised by the Committee. We also have the Underwood Collection, including timber-getting and ambulance equipment and video/photographs which we intend to curate this year.

You might like to bring your annual subscriptions up to date, as they become due on 1 July. \$10 for individual members and \$15 for family members, please. David Paxton is the Secretary/Treasurer and can be contacted as per the letterhead.

Ted Jones
President

Indicative calendar of events: Matthew Flinders' Birthday Celebrations – March; Matthew Flinders landing re-enactment by Progress Association – July; History Queensland Family History Fair – September, alternate years; Annual General Meeting – October; History Stalls – all Market Days