

# FoPIA Flyer

January 2011

## In this edition

President's report for 2010 .....	1
Report on preservation work ....	3
Remembering the Cowie Years .	4
Diary .....	5
End notes .....	5

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## President's report for 2010

Dear Members,

I would like to thank you all, for the effort that you have all put in over the past year, not only in the working bees, but also behind the scenes, especially our very dedicated committee members who have kept this organisation running, including our non committee members who have taken the responsibility on them selves to continue publishing the FoPIA Flyer, maintenance of the web site and the checking of our gmail address. Our thanks go to Gabrielle van Willigen and Rhonda Bryce who as a team are the members who issue to all our members, FoPIA Flyers and also check our email account and forward requests to the appropriate members.

### Well Done Everyone.

Also, our thanks go to our former President, Peter Hubbert, on his 3 years service as President, his valuable contribution over this time has been extraordinary. Therefore on behalf of FoPIA, I wish Peter and Colleen all the very best in their future endeavours.

Our working bees over the past year have been reported in our minutes and the newsletters. I would like to say that 2010 has been a very good year though we did lose some weekends due to a cyclone, extended bad weather and the QPWS having more urgent work on St Helena Island. But the lost weekends were made up for by a number of other activities such as: the extended weekend on Peel Island bird watching with Dr Peter Woodall; and the considerable time and effort invested in setting up the 'going to the gums' display at **Fort Lytton**. This included many days of work not only in the museum but

*Cont'd over*



**FoPIA members enjoying Christmas celebrations**

(Cont'd from page 1)

also time spent in the QPWS workshop at Fort Lytton fabricating bases for the replica carvings. A special note of thanks for Rick Thomason from Redlands Museum who once again assisted us with the design of our display.

**In other projects:**

The preservation of the mandolin was completed in November 2010 and returned to the display case at Fort Lytton (see photo bottom right). Our thanks go to Brian Isaac for his contribution coordinating this project with Doug Milne who was commissioned to work on the instrument. Doug also sent us with a detailed report of the mandolin's condition and treatment he provided (reproduced next page).

The Catholic Church refurbishment was going ahead as planned, with materials taken across to the island in November and our working bee cancelled to allow Parks staff to focus on the project with the contractors. However the weather turned nasty and works have been temporarily put aside to enable other pressing building works being managed by Parks to be carried out. Our many thanks go to Gordon Wilson, who is expediting this project in association with the Catholic Parish of Cleveland and QPWS. The work commencing is something to really look forward to in 2011.

**Finally**, the FoPIA Christmas party held at the end of the year was well attended. Little did we know at that time, that a couple of weeks later that large areas of regional Queensland and so much of Brisbane would be under water. Our thoughts naturally are out there, for all Queenslanders who have been affected by this tragedy, and we wish them all the very best in a speedy recovery.

Best Wishes,  
Scott Fowle  
(FoPIA President)



Mandolin as it was found in 2009



Mandolin, after work was undertaken in 2010 to preserve, and now on display at Fort Lytton in the Peel Island display.

# Report on preservation work

68 Lexton St.,

Stretton,

Q 4116.

16 August, 2010.

Mr Brian Isaac,  
214 Pioneer Dr  
Logan Village,  
Qld. 4207.

re Historic Mandolin from Peel Island

Dear Brian,

I have closely inspected the mandolin passed on to me by Anne Roubos from mandolins in Brisbane, and conferred with two luthiers who have had much experience in mandolin and violin construction and repair. I have phoned Qld Museum, who referred me to the AICCM website for conservation, and referred to the book *The Preservation and use of Historic Musical Instruments* by Robert Barclay.

I think the most appropriate treatment of the instrument would be:

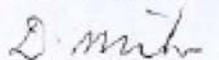
- Remove the tuning machines and tailpiece, clean off surface rust, lightly clean brass and nickel surfaces and treat with Inox to lubricate the gears and to help prevent further rust.
- Clean wood surfaces to remove dust and dirt, clean varnished surfaces with violin cleaner.
- Treat bare wood and also inlay and binding material with Vernice Bianca\* to reduce the effect of changes in humidity, and help provide a little extra adhesion for inlay pieces and the remaining pieces of edge binding / purfling that are coming loose.
- Make an imitation fretboard of black acrylic, marked with fret spacings correct for the scale used at the time. (The original one was probably ebony.)
- Make a nut of either bone or white acrylic to replace the missing original one.
- Supply an ebony bridge typical of that used on instrument of that era.
- Refit all parts, and string with light gauge strings\*\*.

\*Vernice Bianca has been used on violins for centuries, both inside, and outside under the varnish to seal and reduce the effect of changes in humidity on the wood. It contains egg white and gum Arabic. It will not affect the adhesion of traditional hide glue, should this be used for restoration in the future.

\*\*Note that with the cracks in the back ribs, and the missing paper and cloth reinforcing on the inside of the instrument, it should never have the strings brought up to tension, as this would cause more damage.

Because I have a love of old instruments, I am prepared to do the above work, supply the materials, strings, etc. for \$50.

Yours faithfully,



Doug Milne.

3273 6718

## Remembering the Cowie Years

Yesterday a group of six of us visited Peel Island to scatter the ashes of former Redland Shire Council Ranger, Ray Cowie. Ray and his wife Nola had been rangers on the island from 1988 until 1993 when Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service took over the control of the island.

We chose the site of the hut that he had erected in 1988 on the Bluff on Peel's south-eastern tip. Although the hut had long since been dismantled, the spot still commands a great view out over Moreton Bay to Dunwich on Stradbroke Island.

Ray had chosen the best spot on the island to build on.



From left: Peter Ludlow, Dr Ted Reye, Nola Cowie, Phyllis Ludlow, Dr Peter Woodall



House on the Bluff in 1989

Since leaving the island in 1993, it had always been Ray's express wish that he return to Peel some day, and it was with some satisfaction that we were able to grant him this request.

For our visit yesterday, we were fortunate to get everyone together at the same time, and thankful the QPWS made available their staff, boat, and facilities to us. As Head Ranger, Roland Dowling, said 'History at Peel didn't stop with the closing of the Lazaret in 1959.'

Our group comprised the remnants of those who knew Ray and Nola through the Cowie years on Peel. Nola and her friend, Ruth, from Hervey Bay; Dr Ted Reye, Eric's brother, who attended the Peel reunion organised by Ray in 1993; Dr Peter Woodall, who used to visit Peel in the early 1990s on bird watching expeditions, and myself, and wife Phyllis who visited Ray and Nola on a monthly basis from 1988 to 1993 - me to write my books while Ray to discover what lay hidden on the island.

Ray and his wife Nola were passionate about Peel and did much clearing of the overgrown former Quarantine and Lazaret sites when few people showed interest in the island's history. Ray's constant efforts to have the island's past recognized and restored did much to awaken Government and public interest.



Ray and Nola Cowie with Phyllis Ludlow

As always, such events bring back a flood of memories, and one day I'll have to set them down in another book.

When we left the island yesterday, it was strange to be leaving our old friend behind, but comforting to know that he was finally back to the place he loved.

Peter Ludlow  
26.11.2010

## Diary

FoPIA meetings are held on the the second Monday of the month (unless there's a clash with a public holiday) starting at 7pm, followed by light refreshments.

Enquiries: Scott Fowle | 3821 7470 | 0407 934 147 | sfowle@tpg.com.au

Dates for **2011** are:

- February 14
- March 14
- April 11
- May 9
- June 20
- July 11
- August 8
- September 12
- October 10
- November 14

**Venue:** IndigiScapes Centre, 17 Runnymede Road (off Redland Bay Road), Capalaba 4157, (07) 3824 8611 [www.indigiscapes.redland.qld.gov.au](http://www.indigiscapes.redland.qld.gov.au)

## End notes

### Buildings on Peel Island

Recipe for White ant protection : Department of Public Works - August 1945

**“Stumps:** To be of approved hardwood not less than ten (10) ins. in diameter at small end when adzed clear of sapwood, to be spaced as shown, sunk not less than two (2) ft. in ground and cut off level at top for plates and bearers, the earth being well rammed in round same.

The portion of stumps sunk in ground, also each end to have two (2) good coats of crude castor oil well dusted over with arsenic after each coat, portion of stump above ground to receive two (2) good coats of well boiled coal tar applied hot.

