



# FoPI Flyer

December 2007

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Editor: Rhonda Bryce  
 Contributions are welcome:  
[Rhonda\\_Bryce@hotmail.com](mailto:Rhonda_Bryce@hotmail.com)  
 Layout: Gabrielle van Willigen

Any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author and not necessarily those of the organisation.

## Draft marine park plan

Most members of FOPIA will be aware that the Queensland Government is undertaking its 10 yearly review of Moreton Bay Marine Park. The Bay is facing pressure from humans – a booming population, coastal development, boating and fishing.

The Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) has sought FOPIA's support for the "Save Moreton Bay Campaign". Currently, only 0.5% of Moreton Bay Marine Park is secure in 'protection zones' (also known as "green zones" or national parks). (See the campaign website: [www.savemoretonbay.org.au/](http://www.savemoretonbay.org.au/))

The first period of public consultation has now ended and the Draft Report (recommending 15 % protection) was released on 2 December 2007. The AMCS recommends 30% protection for a sustainable future.

The public has until **5pm on 7 March 2008** to make submissions. The EPA encourages anyone with an interest in the marine park to make a submission and have a say on its future. Submissions must be made in writing and can be made online or by downloading a PDF from the EPA website:

[www.epa.qld.gov.au/parks\\_and\\_forests/marine\\_parks/moreton\\_bay\\_marine\\_park\\_zoning\\_plan\\_review/](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/parks_and_forests/marine_parks/moreton_bay_marine_park_zoning_plan_review/)

## Congratulations

### New executive line-up

At the recent AGM a new Executive Committee was voted in for 2008.

- President: Peter Hubbert
- Vice-presidents: Peter Ludlow  
Simon Baltais
- Treasurer: Rosaleen Carroll
- Secretary: Rhonda Bryce
- Executive members: Brad Cahoon  
Scott Fowle

Our thanks to the outgoing office holders, in particular Harry Beiers. His *President's report* is on page 2.

# President's Annual Report

I recall writing last year's annual report about the achievements of FOPIA as well as the significant enthusiasm and involvement of the members. Well I can only say that this year has most definitely eclipsed that effort and the last year's achievements.

Firstly the "Centenary Committee" of a few members moved rapidly and involved people outside the organisation. This galvanised into serious action with people such as Roland Dowling of QPWS, Tracey Ryan of Redlands Library and Rich Thomason of Redland Museum. Input from many others was sought to develop a project to commemorate the Centenary of the Lazarat.

As we all know "Going to the Gums" at the Redland Museum turned out to be an enormous success. The exhibition duration being extended from two to seven months speaks for itself. Furthermore its future life appears to be gathering momentum with interest throughout Queensland.

As FOPIA funds are not to a level where we can afford to develop projects independently, we have to apply to various organisations for assistance. For the exhibition, two councillors (Cr Debra Henry & Cr Craig Ogilvy) of Redland Shire Council deserve our thanks for funds. Also the generous assistance of Tracy Ryan of the Redland Library is also greatly appreciated.

The organisation ran two fund raiser trips in 2007. In conjunction with QPPHA (Queensland Prison and Penal Historical Association Inc), the trip to the historically important prison on St Helena Island was a variation on our previous concept of Peel



Island and Southern Moreton Bay history. Again we had fine weather, fine food and an interesting day on the bay. FOPIA thanks Lauren and Laurelle for their considerable input to

the day. The other trip, the Flora Tour to Ibis Lagoon on Stradbroke Is in conjunction with CRL (Consolidated Rutile Ltd) by coach was also a successful event. In reality there are many opportunities for a variety of events in the future.

In the efforts to gather funds, Rhonda Bryce approached CRL under their Community Development Grants for the replication of the carvings from the Anglican Church of the Good Samaritan on Peel Island. The fact that we received a grant of \$11090 never ceases to amaze me. Currently Troy Robbins has a contract to proceed with the work. It is expected that these replicated artefacts will be available for presentation during 2008.

The year has been a full one and the people who made it happen deserve a vote of appreciation. I have tried to name some above but there are many more. Those that come to mind are Ruth Venner, Rosemary Opala, Redland Museum Staff. Unfortunately I feel I leave the year with some things unfinished. An assets register, procedures manual and a follow-up on lapsed members are important jobs that need to be addressed.

As I finish off after two years, I wish FOPIA well as Karilyn and myself takeoff on our wanderings. We will continue as members and look forward to any items of news.

Harry Beiers  
November 2007

## FoPIA's aims

In 2007 our focus has been firmly on the historical aspects of Peel Island, with the Centenary of the Lazaret activities. However, the interests and aspirations of FoPIA members is much broader than that.

FoPIA's aims are to:

- encourage and assist in the maintenance, conservation, and preservation of the historical and environmental values of Peel Island.
- work in co-operation with and under the guidance of the relevant Government agencies.
- raise public awareness, by all means, in the historical and environmental values of Peel Island.
- recognise and respect the indigenous cultural heritage of Peel Island and enhance the general community's understanding of the same.
- encourage the active participation of the public in the maintenance, conservation, and preservation of the historical and environmental values of Peel Island.
- encourage financial support for the maintenance, conservation, and preservation of the historical and environmental values of Peel Island.
- facilitate the education of students and community groups in the maintenance, conservation, and preservation of the historical and environmental values of Peel Island.

## FoPI Christmas party

Many thanks to gracious hosts Peter and Colleen Hubbert for wonderful food and a very pleasant evening on 2 December.

It was a terrific opportunity to catch up with all the interesting things people are up to - Congratulations to Peter Ludlow on his project writing the history of the Port of Brisbane, and Harry and Karilyn's forthcoming adventure on the road.

## Lazaret families visit planned

A trip in 2008 to Peel Island and the lazaret is being organised for ex-patients and their families. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is making the arrangements for 5 April 2008, though as usual, the trip date will be dependent on the weather. FoPIA is planning a working party at the lazaret to coincide with the visit.

## Family stories

FoPIA is grateful to the families of Laddie Agnew, Beresford Hewitt and Allie Sullivan who kindly shared with us their stories for inclusion in the *going to the gums* exhibition this year. Fuzzy Hearn OAM (now living in Burnie, Tasmania) shares his memories on page 3.

## Ellen Murphy's story

Maria MacKenzie from Somerset UK writes:

*“Ellen Murphy (my husband's mother) was born in Brisbane in 1892. In 1925 she married in New Zealand. ...*

*Enclosed is a picture of her (circa 1918?) together with a gentleman she said was the superintendent of the Leper Hospital.”*



Ed: I have discussed this information with Peter Ludlow. From Peter's research, Mr E.A. Gregory was the

Superintendent from 1918 when he retired in 1925. No matron is listed at that time but "one nurse (unnamed) on probation" is listed.

## Nancy Jane Hearn's story

Nancy Hearn (Photo: 2<sup>nd</sup> on the right below) was sent to Peel Island in the 1930s. Her friend at the lazaret was fellow patient, Laura Schoop (2<sup>nd</sup> on the left) and 3 unnamed gentlemen. Nancy and Laura were also known as “Laurel and Hardy”. (Ed: - I think comedy just might be a strong trait in this family.)

Nancy had a daughter, born at Sth Bne hospital on 4 July and Nancy was released from Peel Island 6 months later.

Meanwhile her young son Fuzzy performed in a circus and, in the late 1940s, after his mother's death, Fuzzy says he visited Peel Island with a group of entertainers (most likely Richard Speechley's group, the Alderley Dramatic, Variety and Comedy Assoc, the story of which we included in earlier newsletters). He performed comedy sketches and 'fill-in's'. For example, if a performer was late with their act, Fuzzy would suddenly appear on stage.

Fuzzy also shared memories of how he got to join the circus: *It all started one day after school when I went to the Smith's home at Stones Corner, the meeting place for some of us children. On this day Mrs Smith said to me "Albert, there is a job in the paper that would suit you." I was somewhat surprised, as I was only twelve years old and the idea of looking for a job had never entered my head - never the less I asked Mrs Smith what the job was and she said that they were looking for children to join the circus as apprentices. At the time I took it as a joke but later that day I got to thinking about it and went down to the circus lot and got the job along with three other children. I forget the name of the park where the circus was but I do remember getting a tram at the 'Gabba and headed out Bulimba way.*

*It was late in the afternoon by the time I arrived at the circus lot and there were a group of people sitting around a fire-pot talking. I walked up to the group and asked for Mr Silver, one of them said "I'm Alwyn Silver, what can I do for you?"*

*I said "I've come about the apprentice job". He looked at me for a minute or two then asked me how old I was, (thinking that twelve was too young to get the job I decided to put my age up) "thirteen" I said. Sorry he replied "you are too old".*

*I just stood there dumfounded. Then after a while he asked me "can you do any tricks?" I said, "I can get*



*through a tennis racket," with that he jumped to his feet and said "with the strings still in it?" and everybody laughed. I was very embarrassed by this time and wished that I had never met this man. Then out of the blue he said "go and get a letter from your parents giving you permission to join the circus, get your self a tin trunk to put your gear in and report back here in two days time".*

*As mum had already been imprisoned on Peel at this time there was only my father to confront with the question. He jumped up and down for while but finally agreed to sign the letter, so that is how I joined the circus in 1940. I stayed with Silvers Circus until about 1947 then travelled with the sideshow ally crowd for awhile until some friends and I started a small circus of our own, but that only lasted a couple of years. Then met an American by the name of Sunset Kit Carson, he was part American Indian and a descendant of the famous Kit Carson. He had been a movie actor and had made a few western movies in his time, he was a big man standing at six feet seven and weighing about seventeen stone. He had a travelling tent show that included sharp-shooting and gun handling displays. I joined his show to do the clowning and be his tent boss, but we went broke out in west Queensland, where I joined up with country music groups and worked my way down to Tasmania where I've been ever since.*

*I have started writing a children's book about a young lad joining a circus based on my experience.*

*Regards – Fuzzy"*

## Treasurer's (abridged)

I am pleased to attach a copy of the Financial Accounts of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2007. The Statement has been audited by Stewart Scott, a Chartered Accountant and Director of *Accounting Solutions & Strategies Pty Ltd*.

I sincerely thank the Redland Shire Council for assisting us with funds to stage the Exhibition "*going to the gums*", as well as members of the Lazaret Centenary Committee, Redland Museum, QPWS, and all who assisted in any way with organizing the event. While not a fund-raiser in itself for FOPIA, I believe the inherent and ongoing significance of the Exhibition cannot be estimated.

The year's main fund-raiser was the boat cruise to St Helena on 16 June 2007, where the proceeds were shared with QPPHA (Qld Penal and Prisons Historical Association). My sincere thanks to the members of QPPHA and FOPIA who organized the very enjoyable and successful event. Because it was held close to the end of the financial year, the profits are not fully reflected in the yearly balance, as some monies were deposited and expenses paid after June 30.

In the financial year 2006-2007 there was a slight increase in membership, but few of these have

renewed membership since June 30. (On the positive side, we have gained 20 new members since July 01, so I trust we can retain these into the future. Many of these have become aware of FOPIA as a result of the Exhibition.)



I wish to thank sincerely all the members of FOPIA and of other organisations and the public who in various ways have supported its cause. As treasurer, I congratulate and sincerely thank all those who have worked so hard in our fundraising and public relations and social activities.

I extend special thanks to our retiring President, Harry Beiers, and to our Secretary, Karilyn Beiers. Their commitment and goodwill, as well as wonderful organisational skills have made my role relatively easy. Both have made an enormous contribution to the growing life of FOPIA, and will be greatly missed. I wish them safe and healthy and enjoyable travels.

It is a pleasure to present this report and the accompanying audited statement to the AGM.

Rosaleen Carroll  
Treasurer

### ***Around Moreton Bay***

*Late September is wonderful on the Bay. Sailing along Peel Island and by Coochiemudlo the small white butterflies wing their way north ~ either in pairs or alone they flutter over the water and around the boat. From where do they come and wither do they go?*

*On closer inspection these butterflies have a black outline on the wing. "The Courier-Mail" 3 November 2007 advises me that they are the "Caper white butterflies on their annual spring migrations, mostly from the dry interior ... in some years, the migrating butterflies have reached New Zealand".*

Rhonda Bryce



Caper White (*Belenois java*). Photo: D Gray  
[www.austmus.gov.au/factsheets/caper.htm](http://www.austmus.gov.au/factsheets/caper.htm)

The Committee members of the Friends of Peel Island Association Inc wish every one of you a *Merry Christmas and the very best for the New Year.*

Our first meeting for the New Year will be on **Monday, 14 February 2008** at: Indigiscapes, 17 Runnymede Rd, Capalaba

(Heading east from Brisbane - Runnymede Rd is located just before the junction lights at Redland Bay Rd and Vienna Rds Capalaba.)