

# FoPI Flyer

August 2008

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## Marvellous mandolin found

Thanks to Joy Schulz (*nee* Goldsworthy) a wonderful old mandolin has come to light after being in her shed for fifty years. It was brought from Peel Island by her father, Superintendent Edward Goldsmith who was in charge of the lazaret from 1926 until early 1938.

Joy was given the instrument after her father died but sadly was not given details of its history as she was only in her early teens at the time.

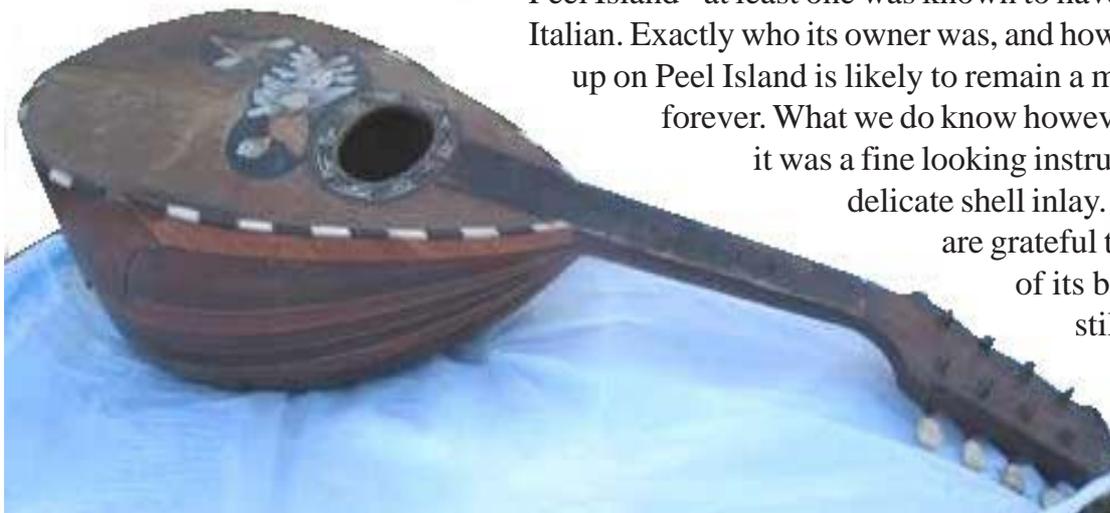


Joy Schulz (R) showing Rhonda Bryce the mandolin from her shed

Some detective work has unearthed sketchy details - the mandolin was most

likely made somewhere in Italy between 1910 and 1920. Perhaps it belonged to one of the patients on Peel Island - at least one was known to have been Italian. Exactly who its owner was, and how it ended up on Peel Island is likely to remain a mystery

forever. What we do know however, is that it was a fine looking instrument with delicate shell inlay. And we are grateful that much of its beauty is still intact.



Possibly originally made in Italy, this mandolin once 'lived' at Peel Island's lazaret in the 1920s

## Another successful grant application

In 2009, Queensland celebrates our 150th anniversary since we separated from New South Wales. To help communities celebrate in 2009, the State Government is offering \$4 million in assistance through the Q150 Community Funding Program. The grants are available for festivals, events and other projects that highlight our history, people, places and future.



Friends of Peel Island successfully applied for a Community Grant to help publish a book on our highly successful exhibition 'going to the gums'. We have received \$10,000 Q150 grant, and the book is expected to be published by February 2009. This will coincide with the re-opening of the exhibition, this time at the Redcliffe Museum where it will be on show until 31 May 2009. Rhonda Bryce, Gabrielle van Willigen and Tracy Ryan are coordinating the book project with Rosaleen Carroll and Mette Juel.

## Mette's island update

In response to a question in a recent FoPI meeting, Frances's wooden grave marker is still standing as it should in the cemetery. The photo at right was taken in March 2008. The cemetery looked generally fine. The ochra we cut and swabbed (in May's working bee) did not seem to have regrown. It will however need short but ongoing attention.

In the gardens around the house only the bulbs seem to have survived; even the Lomandra had gone. The seaweed (mulch) however was in place and looked great. We might consider planting something that can withstand salty conditions?



(Photo courtesy Gabrielle van Willigen)

*Editor's note: congratulations to Mette - an active FoPI member, she also did some volunteering for QPWS. She is now working their part time and getting to do more work on Peel Island, as well as St. Helena Island and Fort Lytton National Parks.*

# *Willie's story* told to Margaret Iselin by Willie McKenzie, an old elder of many tales

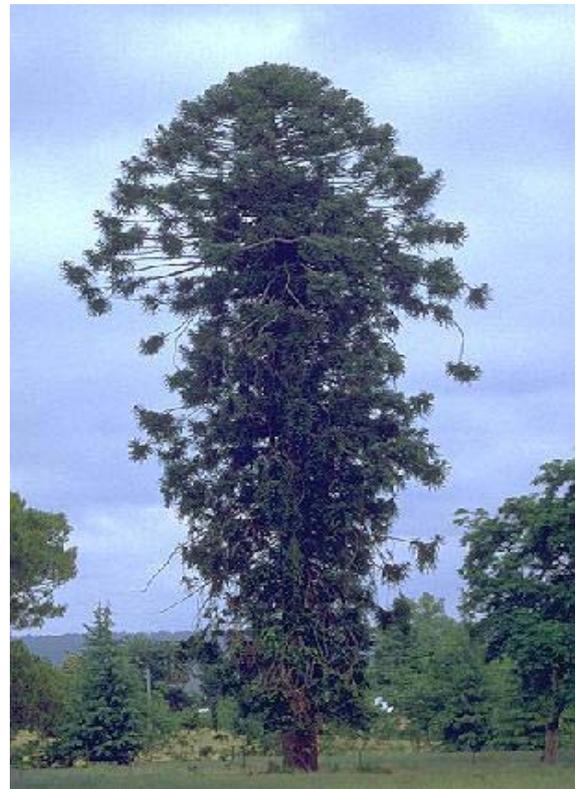
Peel Island was known in the very early days as Teerk-Roo-Ra - meaning 'Place of many Shells'.

In the very early days, long before Europeans came, many Aboriginal tribes travelled from the Bunya Mountains canoeing their way down the Brisbane River and then along the coastline to Cleveland Point.

There were large feasting grounds at Ormiston, hence the large Bunya Pines at Ormiston House.

If the weather was suitable, they would then canoe to Peel Island - 'Teerk-Roo-Ra'- stay the night, and then canoe to Polka Point on Stradbroke Island.

Willie McKenzie mentioned a large Bunya pine on the Island which would have been grown in the 1800's, also the many middens on the Island foreshores. After camping the night, they would canoe to Polka Point on Stradbroke Island, where a large midden is situated. This midden is estimated to be 4000 years old. Not far from there, are large Bunya Pines where a lot of feasting and camping was done. This is in the vicinity of the Little Ship Club situated near the large gum tree.



Example of a bunya pine tree

A fire was kept going in a large stove hearth. When going 'walkabout' the women would carry the coals from the fire on a large green piece of bark, rekindling it with dried grass and small twigs. This enabled them to light their fire at the next camp.

*By Courtesy of Margaret Iselin  
Minjerribah Moorgumpin Elder  
Stradbroke Island*

## **Memberships due for 2008-2009**

A reminder that membership fees are now due for everyone who joined BEFORE 1 March 2008. Those who joined after 1 March will carry on till 30 June 09.

Payments can be made by cheque / money order or direct debit.

**Direct deposit to:** Commonwealth Bank of Australia, BSB 064-000; Account 10649391

### **Send cheques or money orders to:**

The Treasurer  
Friends of Peel Island  
PO Box 1015  
Slacks Creek Qld 4127

# Cruising the Bay

**FoPI and friends enjoy boat trip** on Sunday June 29th. FoPI members and guests totalling 60 people had a wonderful day out cruising on Moreton Bay on the Gold Cat. After leaving Toondah Harbour at 9am we cruised around the south side of Peel Island whilst having a very informative commentary of the Island's history by FoPI long time member and author, Peter Ludlow.

Heading south, we then travelled down to the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron at Canaipa Point to enjoy morning tea on their beautiful lawn area with water views.



Gold Cat arriving at Southport (photo courtesy Rhonda Bryce)

Our next destination was Southport Volunteer Marine Rescue facility. During this section of our cruise we had Margarete Cheras, another local author, tell of her own and her family's experiences on Russell Island going back many years.

On arriving at the MVR facility we enjoyed our lunch which had been arranged with a local caterer.

After lunch we boarded our vessel for the return trip to Cleveland. During the course of the day



Lunch at Volunteer Marine Rescue, Southport (photo Rhonda Bryce)

affle tickets were sold giving passengers a chance to win the many prizes kindly donated. This included books by our local authors such as Lindy Salter and Peter Ludlow.

The weather for the day could not have been better as the wind was low and the water was flat, a great day enjoyed by all on arrival back at 4.15pm.

**Peter Hubbard  
(FoPI President)**

## f e e d b a c k

Hi Rhonda

Thanks to you and the FOPI committee for the absolutely spectacular cruise to Southport on Sunday. None of our group of 4 had ever done this fascinating trip before and we all had such a wonderful day. The organisation was brilliant - the boat, the route, the commentary, the 2 stops for morning tea and lunch were all inspired - and the weather perfect. We look forward to the next trip, and thank you all again for your hard work.

Warm regards

Gabe (Scattini), FoPI member

## QPWS Ranger update

Throughout the months of July and August there has been a big effort from staff (Trevor Mullen and Jacques Frugte) to reduce the fuel loads (vegetation) around the ruins within the lazaret compound. In doing so, people can now see a lot more of the older buildings and how far they have deteriorated.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of July Brian Isaacs and Scott Fowle (FoPI members) accompanied Drew Gulash and I for the weekend. I had Brian and Scott hand pull out some Mossman River Grass that I had found few days earlier while Rolly and I were over checking some other things. The patch of grass was down near the Grape Vine behind the Doctor's Quarters. Brian and Scott managed to pull it all out. Once they finished, they were looking around the Grape Vine and they



came across another 2 small patches of Mossman River Grass. They successfully hand pulled out these 2 patches as well. This is a very big win for us, as Mossman River Grass is a very evasive weed and can spread over an area very quickly.

Brian and Scott also managed to walk through the entire area behind the Doctors Quarters and place flagging tape on all of the old ruins that are hidden in the vegetation. I asked them to do this because we are going to trim back all the vegetation in that area as a safe fire zone and we needed to know if there was anything lying on the ground that we might not see when the slasher machines are going through there.

The work that these 2 guys carried over the weekend was a huge help to the work unit and I can't express enough, how much we all appreciate their hard work and anyone that comes along and volunteers their time to help out with preserving the site.

Also on that weekend, Drew Gulash and I put in the Restricted Access Signs at the two gates and one at the front of the Lazaret (Rec Hall End). We have put

up a barrier fence at the front of the Doctors Quarters to stop people from entering the building, as it is unsafe structure.



Another project that is underway at the moment is, our regional Natural Resource Management Ranger is putting together, in conjunction with us, a Pest Weed Management Program for Peel Island. This will help us in our efforts to eradicate/control weeds on the Island and it will be a really good way for us to record data on the work that has been done.

We are also acquiring quotes to have another big clean up of the asbestos that is lying around and also getting some construction work done on the nurses quarters and the male bath house.

Other things around the park are things like:

- campground signage is going in and signage to let people know that you can't bring domestic animals to the Island;
- things to do with weeds at Horseshoe Bay are, we are spraying and monitoring the Singapore Daisy in the campground at the eastern end and some at the far western end of horseshoe bay;
- we are looking at putting in a fire break around the swamp just south of the lazaret – this will be done in conjunction with Traditional Owners. The fire break is so that future burning can happen without burning out the swamp as this is a significant site for the traditional owners.

*Brendon Yetman,  
A/Ranger in Charge (while Rolland Dowling was on  
holidays),  
Heritage Parks Unit*



New signage for Peel Island (Teerk Ro Ra) National Park which are located at Horseshoe Bay. (Photo courtesy Rhonda Bryce)



Here's "Roo Hoo" finished - This amazing recreation by Troy shows how the kangaroo sculpture from Peel might have looked when first made. Troy is currently working on the fish and penis sculptures (photo courtesy Troy Robbins).



Remember the wonderful banners from our exhibition? They were by Ruth Venner (pictured), who continues to make beautiful artwork - this time for the recent Redland's *Spring Festival*. (photo courtesy Rhonda Bryce).