



**NEWS FROM THE PORT OF ADELAIDE BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL TRUST
JUNE QUARTER 2013**

Hi everyone,

COMMITTEE UPDATE:

PoANT has welcomed four new Committee members in the past few months and they have brought energy and a range of skills with them. They are Sharon Holmes, Pam Child, Mandy Price and Janette Riggs and we formally welcome them here.

CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE:

Michelle Hogan	Co-Chairperson
Karen James	Co-Chairperson
Pat Netschitowsky	Deputy Chairperson/Treasurer
Fiona McConchie	Co-Secretary
Michael Weir	Co-Secretary
Sandra Elms	
Adam Paterson	
Andrew Winkler	
Jude Elton	
Sharon Holmes	
Pam Child	
Mandy Price	
Janette Riggs	

PoANT members are invited to attend Committee meetings as Observers. Normal meeting place is the British Hotel in Port Adelaide on the second Wednesday of each month, commencing at 7 pm. If you would like to join us for a meal at 6 pm you would be most welcome. Please check with me first though because on occasion we have to move the meeting due to commitments of the Hotel.



FORMER COMMITTEE MEMBER - REX MUNN

It would be remiss of me not to mention here that Rex, who was a founding member of the Port of Adelaide Branch of the National Trust passed away in January. His tireless community work has been recognised in a number of ways, the latest by having his name inscribed on the Statue of Justice in Port Adelaide at the recent May Day celebrations. Many paid their respects, including Federal & State members for Port Adelaide, Mark Butler and Susan Close. The Statue is located outside the Port Adelaide Visitor Information Centre and represents the coordinated celebration and agitation for the struggles of workers for quality living and working conditions, as well as a just workplace system. Many subsequent May Day movements further advocate for universal peace and equality.

THE COMMITTEE IS INVOLVED IN VARIOUS PROJECTS AND SOME OF THEM ARE:

QUARANTINE STATION / TORRENS ISLAND: Andrew Winkler continues to commit enormous time and energy in negotiating with the various Government Departments and involved parties to ensure that this important piece of history is not lost. A big thank you to Andrew for his energy and commitment.

REPORT FROM ANDREW WINKLER:

Over recent months, community interest in Torrens Island has been growing. The Friends of Torrens Island held a picnic at the Quarantine Station (TIQS) in January; which was followed by another by the Royal SA Yacht Squadron which attracted 180 participants. The Maritime Museum found demand for its TIQS tours was so high that they were run twice daily on weekends during April and May. Now suspended for the winter, these tours are expected to resume in August.

In February a development application for a temporary storage facility that would have had a significant impact on the amenity of TIQS was withdrawn, after a number of submissions against it were lodged by PoANT, FoTI and other community members. In the lead-up to last year's by-election in Port Adelaide the Government made two commitments regarding Torrens Island, which have since been implemented through the efforts of new local member Susan Close:

1. In March members of the FoTI committee were given an opportunity to comment on a scoping study on the tourism potential of TIQS before it was formally accepted by the Minister, and recommended that substantial improvements needed to be made to the report.
2. Additions to the Torrens Island Conservation Park amounting to around 24 ha are expected to take place by the end of June; this includes the area of high quality remnant vegetation containing the historic TIQS cemetery.

Along with these boundary changes, ownership of TIQS will pass from Treasury to the Department for Planning, Transport & Infrastructure (DPTI). At a meeting of TIQS stakeholders in April that I was asked by DPTI to convene, an informal offer was made to FoTI, of taking a lease over TIQS in return for a peppercorn rent.

The implications of this offer are currently being explored by the interim FoTI committee. The run-down condition of the TIQS buildings means that considerable fund-raising will be required (though there could be matching funding from DPTI), and that FoTI will have to evolve to the appropriate standard of governance to effectively take on this responsibility. The committee expects FoTI to become incorporated by the end of June, with an AGM to be held in October.

The oldest building on the TIQS site is the 1879 prefabricated wooden cottage, which Tony Kearney (former Chair of PoANT) thinks may be the oldest of its particular type in the world. It has suffered from neglect and recent vandalism.

Kevin Jones, Director of the Maritime Museum, recently arranged an inspection of it by Justin Gare, an expert in timber conservation from Artlab. Justin was highly impressed by the craftsmanship of the building but warned that it will continue to deteriorate more rapidly unless preventative action is taken now.

Kevin Jones wants to organise working bees, starting in June or July, to prepare and repaint the building exterior. If anyone would like to participate, please contact me at littoral@chariot.net.au.

Andrew Winkler Convenor, FoTI



ORAL HISTORY PROJECT:

A visit to the opposite bank: Stories of boat and ship construction in Port Adelaide, South Australia.

Our Project is underway with the appointment of two highly experienced oral historians, June Edwards and Madeleine Regan, who will begin training the two Le Fevre High School students in the skills and techniques of conducting interviews and using the technology to record the interviewee's stories of shipbuilding in Port Adelaide. The students (Kayla and Willow) volunteered to participate in this project because they wanted to learn more about the history of where they live.

We also have other members of the branch (Alan O'Connor, Alison Hastings Joan O'Connor and Michael Weir) who have undertaken an oral history course and they will join the interviewing team.

Our list of potential interviewees is growing and we would welcome any suggestions from you as we want to capture as many voices as possible from numerous shipwrights working in the ship and boat building yards of Port Adelaide's inner harbour to ensure a rich and powerful record of this significant time of our history. BIG thanks to Sharon and Adam for their hard work in bringing this Project to fruition.

HARTS MILL:

PoANT has been campaigning about the maintenance and community use of the iconic Harts Mill for some years. That activity has in part contributed to the following outcome:

The State Government has appointed ASPECT Studios to do a plan for the area surrounding Hart's Mill.

WORK on revamping the area surrounding one of Port Adelaide's most iconic buildings will start in August, with a contractor announced for the work.

Renewal SA - the State Government agency handling the rejuvenation of the Port - has appointed ASPECT Studios to upgrade the Hart's Mill precinct. The landscape architecture firm has confirmed work will start in August and is expected to be finished by March next year.

The State Government plans to spend \$2.8 million on the area around the old flour mill as part of a larger project to kick-start the area's revival. The revamped precinct is expected to include an outdoor market, cafe, park, toilets, car parking and public art.

GMH MOSAIC:



The former GMH site has the remains of a mosaic from the foyer of the building. Deemed as an important link to the industrial history of Port Adelaide.

Identified in the Cultural Mapping Report.

Committee members have met with Satu Teppo, the Engagement & Activation Manager of the Port Renewal Project who has organised for a comprehensive risk assessment of the site to be conducted. This news was met with enthusiasm as it means that future plans can be based on the information to be provided.

FORMBY FOUNTAIN:



We are liaising with Council for the repair and maintenance of the Fountain which is located outside the Port Adelaide Police Station on Commercial Road. The people of Port Adelaide paid for the fountain by public subscription to honour John Formby Esquire, JP, Mayor of Port Adelaide in 1870.

BIRKENHEAD BRIDGE:

We have been fortunate to have contact from a local resident who has been thinking creatively about the Birkenhead Bridge. He has submitted plans to look at a number of ways to paint, decorate and use the Bridge after the current maintenance work is completed. His plans have included night lighting, facility to place banners marking Festivals or other occasions and have been submitted to the various decision makers around the Port, including the Offices of Mark Butler, Susan Close and to the Renew Port Adelaide Committee. The Bridge is one of the gateways to the heart of the Port and deserves a facelift.

COMMITTEE LIASONS:

Committee members continue to meet regularly with the following individuals and organisations:

Port Adelaide Enfield Council about the Review of the PAEC City Plan

Port Adelaide Enfield Council about the Heritage Review

Susan Close MP and Andrew Crust

Port Adelaide Renewal Committee about various issues, including feedback about the proposed Hike and Bike path

WEBSITE:

Just a reminder to check out the website for updates:

<http://www.poant.org>

FACEBOOK

Big THANKYOU to Sandra Elms for getting our Facebook page up and running. It's a different way of being able to keep in touch with what's happening; it's easy to access; you'll be able to comment on different postings and make suggestions about different issues.

<http://www.facebook.com/PortofAdelaideNationalTrust?fref=ts>

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The PoANT AGM will be held on Friday the 30th of August. PoANT AGM's are traditionally held in local buildings of interest and we invite members to submit ideas on possible locations. Once finalized, we will forward details to you.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATON OR CLARIFICATION PLEASE CONTACT ME ON pat@pnetschi.com OR ON 0402008589