



## FRIENDS OF BRUNY ISLAND QUARANTINE STATION

315 Missionary Road, Barnes Bay, Bruny  
Is. 7150



### News sheet October 2014

**Committee members** – it was resolved at the AGM in March to expand the FOBIQS Committee and it was left to the present Committee to progress. To that end Paul Shelley has kindly accepted an invitation to join the Committee. Most FOBIQS members would have met Paul at working bees or more recently when he undertook caretaking duties at the Station. Paul has a long term connection with North Bruny and has a holiday cottage at Dennes Point. We welcome Paul to the Committee.

Oberhausen Day – a very successful event was held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August with about 40 people attending. The day started with an introduction by Kathy Duncombe and was followed by brief talks by Bob Minchin, John Lennox, Reg Watson and Wendy Bowman. Music from the period was supplied by Peter McFie and his band *Roughwater*. The day concluded with a barbeque of bratwurst sausages, sauerkraut, black bread all washed down with German beer. A worthwhile day and there is consideration being given to making this an annual event. Any feedback on this idea would be appreciated.



Caption: Wendy Bowman (nearest table) and Kathy Duncombe

Opening times – as agreed following our planning meeting with Parks and Wildlife the Station will now be open Thursday to Monday 10 am to 4 pm. The gates will be closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and vehicle access not permitted. The new opening times have started with the commencement of daylight saving time and will conclude at Easter when we will resume weekend opening times. FOBIQS is most appreciative that the current caretakers Leonie and Graeme have agreed to this change despite it not being flagged in the application for winter caretaking positions.

Summer caretakers – the process of filling caretaker positions for summer went smoothly. There were twice the number of applicants overall as postings available although for some of the early season slots

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there were lesser applicants and the mid season slots heavily oversubscribed. Applicants were evaluated against the selection criteria and a report approved by PWS was used as a basis for offering positions. The successful applicants have all had extensive relevant experience and will bring new ideas to the Station. One of the positive things about advertising on the internet/social media is the diversity of backgrounds of the applicants. This is reflected in the people selected for caretaking – younger people, couple with children, male and female caretaking solo and older couples. Some caretakers are Tasmanian residents and others mainland residents. No overseas caretakers yet but we did have some interest.

Winter caretakers 2015 – learning from our experience last winter we will be advertising earlier this year to give people more time to arrange their affairs and be available to caretake. We also had feedback that applicants needed a longer period to prepare their applications. For Winter 2015 the advertising will be in Mid January closing 4 weeks later in Mid February.

Upgrade of Headhouse – planning is proceeding for this important project. It has been necessary to lodge a development application with Kingborough Council because the conversion from a 'horticultural' use of the headhouse to a space for visitors is change of use and all changes of use require a DA. As this requires advertising it has put the work back by a couple of months but we remain optimistic that a start before Christmas will be possible.

Working bees – two working bees have been scheduled before Christmas. The first is Tuesday October 21<sup>st</sup> at 10.00 am. The second on Saturday November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10.00 am. We have a lot of jobs to complete including splitting next winters wood with a wood splitting machine and attacking the remaining cumbungi in the dam.

Interpretation material for headhouse – as part of the planning for the headhouse upgrade we had a visit by Barry & Megan Weston of Adventure Bay whose combined experiences include artist, exhibition curating and theatre directing and production. This was followed by a return visit by Barry with Rod Busch from Signrite who is very experienced, keen to be involved in the Quarantine Station as a community project.

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