



**Tasman Forestier History Group Inc.**

# Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 1

**January 2022**

## *Vale Graham*

We were all devastated to learn of Graham Speight's sudden passing in early September. He is remembered for his unyielding enthusiasm for all things local, especially the history and the scenic landscapes he was so passionate about. His focus and drive are a wonderful legacy. A natural story teller, Graham's skill in sharing stories with humour and passion in his own inimitable style will endure in our memories. The stories told at his funeral aligned with what we suspected about Graham - he had always been a larrikin and not too concerned with the rules. Not afraid of a challenging situation and with strong opinions of his own, Graham was always respectful of the views of others. It is still hard to believe that Graham has left us to get on with things without him - I haven't quite forgiven him yet.



To commemorate Graham and the project he was leading to resurrect and reinvigorate the local history trail we will be exhibiting the *Convict Trail* project at the upcoming Pirates Bay bi-centenary celebration. Images showing the current state of the project will be on display at the event at Eaglehawk Neck hall on Sunday 30th January, 10am to 2.30pm. If you feel you can spare an hour to help at the stall, please let Fay Odell know (contact details on last page of this newsletter). An update on the *Convict Trail* project is provided on page 2.

We had a great history walk in August led by the very knowledgeable Bob Millington, along the foreshore trail of Murdunna. We look forward to a Murdunna panel in the *Convict Trail*, with content contributed by Bob, in the near future.

We have held two workshops recently, one in November and the other in December, to further the planning of *Convict Trail* panels and website content. We welcomed David Rastas to both workshops to share his expertise. David is the Interpretation & Experience Manager at Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority with considerable experience in capturing and sharing local histories. He brings a contemporary perspective to what may be possible and we are feeling inspired by his ideas. It is such a shame that Graham isn't here to appreciate the new energy this has brought to the project.

We combined the workshop in December with our end of year function - a wonderful BBQ cooked by James Parker and yummy shared salads and desserts from members. It was a great evening, thank you.

Our AGM is rapidly approaching. Please give some thought to taking on a role on the committee. Regrettably Anne Courtney has decided not to continue after providing outstanding service as Secretary for several years. Anne has been very active during her time with the Group and I would like to acknowledge and thank her for the work she has undertaken and the successes she has contributed to. I would also like to personally thank her for being such a great sounding board and support for me since I have been President.

I hope to see you at the Pirates Bay event this coming weekend.

**Anne Hoyle**  
**PRESIDENT**

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### Dates to remember:

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<b>Fri 28 Jan</b>	<b>Pirates Bay event official opening 2.00pm, Australia Day Awards. Afternoon tea 2.30pm.</b>
<b>Sat 29 Jan</b>	<b>Pirates Bay event continues</b>
<b>Sun 30 Jan</b>	<b>Pirates Market &amp; Fun Day EHN Hall, 10am - 2.30pm</b>
<b>Mon 7 Feb</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting, 7pm, Old Courthouse, Premaydena</b>

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## Project update - Convict Trail

The **Nubeena** and **Semaphore** panels were installed in December by Rod Kean and Barry Jennings (see images below). They have done a splendid job. Rod custom made the stands with stainless steel to withstand the salt winds of this exposed location. It is great to see people stopping on their walk of the foreshore to read the panels. A huge thank you to Rod and Barry for making this happen.



The **Forestry** panel is to be installed near Laurie Tatnell's museum at Taranna this month. This panel should get great exposure with the recent opening of the Federation Chocolate Foundry next door. It is great that Laurie Tatnell and Clare Dean have remains of the Convict Railway on their properties and that both are keen to share it.

Bob Millington has agreed to research, write, and provide images for the **Murdunna** panel, and then send off to an editorial committee to have the design finalised. Bob will then have a chance to approve the design before it is sent to our graphic designer. Murdunna Shop owner, Shannon, is very keen to complement our Convict Trail panel with his own set of panels mounted on the shop wall, telling the story of the Murdunna shop.

Our request for a panel or QR code at **Remarkable Cave** carpark was not approved by NPWS. Tasman Council are supportive of improving the pull off area on Safety Cove Road that has a view towards **Tasman Island** and we will consider including the panel that was to be at Remarkable Cave at this location. Thanks to the efforts of Barry Jennings, chair of the Port Arthur Community Advisory Committee, PAHSMA have offered a large piece of sandstone to be used as a memorial to Graham Speight. We propose locating this memorial at the Tasman Island station to honour Graham and his contribution to our History Group, particularly the mighty effort he put into the *Convict Trail* project.

We will have a stall at the Pirates Bay market at EHN Hall on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January** and actively promote the Trail to the community, but we are still a long way from 'completion'. Maps will be on sale for \$5 each at this market. They are also being stocked at Port Arthur Historic site gift shop, and Seabreeze Supermarket.

Planning workshops for the *Convict Trail* were held in November and December. Coordinated by Anne Courtney, they were well attended and quite inspirational.



For each station we aim to:

- Select a 'hero' image
- Produce a short 'soundscape'
- Share the stories that would otherwise be lost and/or inaccessible to visitors
- Include stories on the website from within the general 'precinct' of the station e.g. Gellibrand Farm at Sloping Main can be connected to Station No. 18 (Coal Mines) as the closest map station.



Anne Hoyle is working on the **Orcharding** panel that will be located at the old Tasmanian Orchardists and Producers (T.O.P.) shed site at Nubeena. The aerial image above shows the cool store facility (that is now the Seabreeze Supermarket) being constructed behind the T.O.P. shed in 1966. If anyone has other photos of these sheds, or copies of local apple and pear labels, please email [tasmanhistory@gmail.com](mailto:tasmanhistory@gmail.com)

## *Can you help?*

Anni McGinniss is seeking information about early shacks on the Peninsula. If you have any stories or pictures of shacks from your childhood, please contact Anni via the [tasmanhistory@gmail.com](mailto:tasmanhistory@gmail.com) email.



## PIRATES OF PIRATES BAY

30 January 1822: six convicts escape from Hobart Town, taking the Pilot's boat. Finding their way to teralina-Eaglehawk Neck they cross over and see, lying at anchor, a sailing schooner, the *Seaflower*. The little ship is soon in their possession. They flee northwards...

**Who were the pirates? Whose ship was *Seaflower*? What happened next?**

**200 Years**

DISCOVER THIS INCREDIBLE STORY

28, 29, 30 January 2022

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
*Tasman Forestier History Group*  
*Monday 7th February*  
*7.00 PM*  
*Old Courthouse, Premaydena*

### ***Preserving yesterday's history for tomorrow's generations***

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