



Tasman Peninsula Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter

Volume 2. Issue 1

May 2020

After a six year hiatus the TPHS Newsletter has been resurrected thanks to COVID19!

Monthly meetings have been suspended until social-distancing requirements are relaxed and it is important to keep connected with our interests and each other during this unusual time. I guess we are all living through a history making period. For many people the restrictions related to the pandemic mean we are enjoying a slower pace of life and revisiting some more traditional and resourceful ways of doing things, so it seems fitting to produce an old-fashioned newsletter to help keep us connected with TPHS business and current projects.

Thank you Kate

On behalf of the Society I would like to take this opportunity to formally acknowledge the contribution made by Kate Sainsbury to the Tasman Peninsula History Society in various roles since its first beginnings including now immediate past President. Kate has always provided strong leadership and calm direction, as well as a wealth of knowledge and passion for local history. She is always willing to represent and promote the Society and her expertise at running meetings is legendary. A special thank you from me for the fine example you set Kate.

Anne Hoyle
President

Dates to remember:

1 June	TPHS business meeting (to be confirmed)
30 Jun	Student competition closes
6 July	TPHS business meeting (to be confirmed)
3 Aug	TPHS business meeting (to be confirmed)
3 Aug	Copy deadline for Chronicle
Nov	Publication of Chronicle 20
tba	Launch of Chronicle 20

Main priorities for next four months:

- *Convict Trail project*
 - *Map*
 - *Roadside interpretation panels*
- *Chronicle no. 20*
 - *Cover montage*
 - *Articles*
 - *School student competition*
 - *Local heritage list*
- *Heritage list project*
 - *GPS locations*
 - *Tasman Council consultation*
- *Indexing of TPHS Bus Tour notes*

PROJECT UPDATE: Local heritage list

When the church at Koonya came under threat in 2018 because of a decision by the Anglican Church to sell off 'redundant' assets there was widespread community concern.

Once the dust had settled and the future of the church was secured the Society turned its attention to the broader concern of heritage at risk. [Heritage Tasmania has informed me that they are in the throes of finalising the assessment of St Alban's Church before consultation with the owner and the nominator]. Simultaneously all local Councils in Tasmania were being charged with the task of completing heritage overlays for their municipal areas as a part of the new state-wide Planning Scheme. Shane Wells has been completing some work for our Council on 'local heritage places' and we have been working with him.

This issue has been highlighted in the last month as a 'lost' building emerged from the undergrowth at Oakwood. This building was not actually



Long Bay constables hut, Oakwood Image credit: Phil Hallam

lost, lots of people knew it was there – you just could not see it.

TPHS has an impressive network because within a few days six different people had contacted me about this building. I got Doff Hallam on the trail and she

sourced some recent (since the Second World War) history and I also contacted Heritage Tasmania. It seems the building was a constable's hut built in association with the convict railway. In later years, the house next door was built by George Wellard and Lola and Bob Hamilton later ran the Post Office there. The photographs accompanying this article were taken by Phil Hallam.



Long Bay constables hut, Oakwood Image credit: Phil Hallam

It is worth acknowledging the great care the contractors exercised in working around the two buildings. Interestingly this was not the first building to emerge from the Oakwood undergrowth in recent years. The old Oakwood School, which is opposite this building, has also gained a new lease of life.

These reports are coming in thick and fast at the moment. The shed at Radnor is another example of a building that has succumbed to the ravages of time and weather. The Tasman district has a number of humble, every-day cottages, sheds and other structures that are at risk of being lost as they slide into dilapidation and decay. This project is not just about preservation, it also seeks to highlight the significance of the buildings in terms of their beauty and the character of the setting; also the chance that, like the Oakwood School, someone might breathe new life into them.

Contact Graham on 62501062 or e-mail: speight.g@hotmail.com



Benjafield shed at Radnor, June 2004 and April 2020
Images courtesy of PAHSMA

PROJECT UPDATE: Films

We retrieved a copy of the fantastic "A Town Like Port Arthur" 1960s short film from the ABC archives a few years ago now and it has been shown at many community events. Unfortunately it was missing its original soundtrack, but through lots of consultation with our community, and collaboration with the Port Arthur Community Advisory Committee, we have managed to identify all the Port Arthur locals featured in the film (such as Harry Danker, pictured below making cray pots).



Thanks to James Parker it now has voice-over and a music track laid over the vision, as well as sub-titles. James presented the enhanced version to our March TPHS meeting and members were very impressed.

The film was unearthed during a TPHS project to collect footage created for the ABC by our own Dorothy (Doff) Hallam during the 1960's. James is currently working on finalising a video interview he made with Doff, interspersed with scenes from her amazing footage chronicling local industry and community events. When current restrictions are relaxed and *Port Arthur Talks* resume, James will present both films to the broader community.

PROJECT UPDATE: Convict Trail - Tourist Map and Roadside Interpretation Panels

We now have a 'mock-up' of the Convict Trail and three exemplars of what a panel might look like. If you are one of those who has signed up to complete a panel, we will hold a workshop as soon as the social isolation restrictions have been lifted to help you complete the task.

As you know some of the panels are already in place. Some are still to be developed. One of the proposed stations on the revamped Convict trail is the 'halfway-station' on the convict railway. The site is on the straight on the Arthur Highway at a location about 1 km north of the Fortescue bay turn off. I have spent



Interpretation Panel exemplar



an entertaining time seeking permission to put an installation there and things are looking good. Rachel Chesmer has indicated an interest in working on this panel.

It is interesting to note the high degree of interest there is in the convict railway. In all my conversations with people as part of the Heritage Project and the Convict Trail it is the topic that generates the most interest.

Contact Graham on 62501062 or e-mail: speight.g@hotmail.com

Chronicle 20 - list of proposed articles and assigned writers

- Terry Wilson: YHA – Eaglehawk Neck
- Helen Kerr Smith: Ruth Brozak's house - Eaglehawk Neck
- Peter Lane: Lufra Hotel
- Kate Sainsbury: St David's Church, Koonya
- Rob Tymms: Peace house and re-located cottage, Koonya
- Anne Hoyle: Superintendents House, Saltwater River
- George Whitehouse: The Dunalley Hotel
- Dorothy Hallam: The Hansen's Cottage
- Chris Hendy: The storekeepers house, Premaydena
- Fay Odell: The house of Doctor Robert Andrew Smith
- Graham Speight: Lavender farm, Oakwood
- John Smith: Laurel Smith's house, Highcroft
- Anni McGinniss: Pendennis at Eaglehawk Neck
- Anni McGinniss: Fazackerley's Cottage at Murdunna
- Lindy Mollineaux: her house at Murdunna
- Laurie Tatnell: Win Tatnell's house, Taranna
- Josh Binks: t.b.a.

- James Parker: the cricket trophy
- Keith O'Hara: photo montage for cover

Copy Deadline 3rd August
 to Graham Speight:
speight.g@hotmail.com

2020 Membership subscriptions due

"The stories of family settlement, triumph and struggle weave the tapestry of how we live our lives to this day. Please support the important work we do to research, preserve and present the history of the Tasman Peninsula and the South-East region by becoming a financial member of the Society. It's only \$10 per year - you will be part of our story. Thank you."

Keith O'Hara, Treasurer

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Cricket Trophy

Thank you to the Macdonald family for the recent donation of a superb Cricket Trophy, and to Ted Leeson for organising its excellent restoration. TPHS loaned the trophy to the *Tasman Cricket Association* for this year's grand final and it was presented to the winners (Port Arthur), but only for a photo opportunity! It is now safely back in the collection store. Murray Macdonald and his brother Ken were both talented cricketers and their names dominate on the trophy. There will be more on this story in the next TPHS Chronicle.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

for the following tasks:

- Audit of past chronicles for articles relating to places (so as not to duplicate)
- Proofing and publication of no. 20
- School competition judging
- Coordinate printing of interpretation panels for the Convict Trail

Contact: Graham Speight
 speight.g@hotmail.com

Frances Jackson - Tasmanian aviatrix

Attached to the emailed version of this Newsletter is a scanned paper by Claire Baddeley titled "*Frances Jackson - Tasmanian aviatrix*" (THRA Papers and Proceedings Vol 65 no 1).



It complements Maurice Hallam's Chronicle article "*A High Flyer*" based on his interview with Frances in the 1970's.

Hearteningly, Maurice's work (TPHS Chronicle 12, p3) was referenced in Claire Baddeley's paper.

Preserving yesterday's history for tomorrow's generations

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