

PORT ARTHUR TALKS

'Taking the Air': Health Tourism at Eaglehawk Neck, 1875-1920

presented by Dr Marian Walker

By the end of the nineteenth century Tasmania had developed a reputation for health tourism. From early settlement the island had been described in travel literature as the 'Sanatorium of India', the 'Sanatorium of the Australian Colonies' and the 'Sanatorium of the South'. By the second half of the nineteenth century a variety of entrepreneurs began to capitalise on this rhetoric by establishing 'sanatoriums' and 'health resorts' designed specifically to attract invalids. This paper will examine this trend by employing the example of the 'Lufra Hotel' established near Port Arthur in 1899 by British naval doctor Dr Heber Dowling Ellis. It will conclude that while not all health enterprises established at this time could accurately have been described as 'sanatoriums', the 'Lufra Hotel' was one establishment that qualified more than most.

Dr. Walker was educated at the University of Tasmania and the University of New England. She obtained her Ph.D. at the University of Tasmania where she is a Research Associate with the School of Humanities. Her research focuses on the social and cultural history of travel and tourism with a special interest in the concept of image as a social and cultural construct. Her other research interests include community identity, public memory, cultural landscapes and the interpretation of tourism sites.

ALL WELCOME!

Thursday 23 January, 2014 at 5.30 p.m.

**Junior Medical Officer's Conference Room,
Port Arthur Historic Site**

For more information call 6251 2324

