



Archaeological reveal, Melville Street, Hobart

Hobart's early history revealed

Hobart's early history is being uncovered in an archaeological investigation on the former Melville Street Carpark, in the central business district.

The investigation is being led by ArcTas Pty Ltd as part of pre-development work for the new University of Tasmania student accommodation and retail complex.

Over eight weeks, the archaeology team has uncovered the foundations of early commercial and residential buildings, as well as thousands of artefacts that help shed light on the lives of those who lived and worked in the area.

The area began to be developed in the 1820s with the opening up of the Hobart port to private vessels and the growth of the developing wool and whale oil trades. During that decade, Hobart's population grew from 2,000 to 6,000 inhabitants and the city's development began to extend north from the port.

In the early to mid-1820s, the Melville Street carpark area was subdivided into ten blocks fronting Elizabeth, Brisbane and Melville Street. By the mid-twentieth century, the area was fully developed, with a high density of commercial buildings, working class housing, hotels and industrial sites.

On the Elizabeth Street frontage, the archaeologists have uncovered the foundations of the former Haberdasher's Arms. When the hotel closed in the early 1860s it was converted to shops and residences. The remains of the Haberdasher's Arms clearly show the change of use from pub to individual shops.

Next door to the Haberdasher's Arms was the Stowell Arms. Again, the archaeologists have uncovered the original footprint of the building and the stables to the rear. An intriguing feature are the surviving timbers from the stables, possibly linked to the tethering of horses.

Walking through the carpark to Brisbane Street, the remains of residential housing have been revealed. This residential area dates back to the 1820s, with historical documents showing the changes in construction, styles and ownership over many years. By the mid-1840s the area was highly developed, with quality terracing fronting Brisbane Street and poorer housing located towards the rear of the lots. The residences were demolished by the mid-1940s.

Artefacts left behind include hundreds of "cartwheel coins", bottles, crockery and shoes. This detritus of daily life provides an interesting snapshot into the early development of Hobart.



The remains of terrace housing on the Brisbane Street frontage of the site, with original fireplaces still clearly visible
Photo: Heritage Tasmania

Tasmania's Heritage Festival Takes Shape

Tasmania's annual Heritage Festival in May is shaping up to be an exciting and engaging program of events, held right across the state.

Organised by the National Trust on behalf of the Tasmanian community, this month-long festival will align with the 2015 ANZAC commemorations.

The Festival theme, 'Conflict and Compassion', has direct relevance to the ANZACs, as well as extending to other aspects of Tasmania's heritage. The program will draw together a series of signature events focusing on the World War 1 commemorations, alongside a range of events organised by participating councils, organisations and community groups.

Among the signature events is TMAG's exhibition commemorating the role Tasmanians played in World War 1. Drawing from the museum's multi-disciplinary collections, the exhibition will highlight previously untold stories including those of Tasmanian Aboriginal servicemen from the Furneaux Islands, and women who provided medical support on the front line. In the north of the state, the West Tamar Arts Group, supported by the National Trust, will host a visual and performing arts exhibition in the heritage coach house and stables at Clarendon. Visitors will be immersed in a complete arts experience including art, working artists' stalls, fashion and music, as well as food, wine and whisky.

The National Trust community knitted poppies project is commemorates those Tasmanians who served during the war. More than 5 000 poppies have been knitted by volunteers, community groups, schools and various organisations and businesses. The poppies will be installed in National Trust properties around the state, as well as businesses and schools in Launceston.



The Festival could not proceed without the many groups, organisations and tourism venues that host events throughout the month and the support of the State Government. Details of all events will soon be available from the National Trust website www.nationaltrust.org.au/tasmania.

Commemorating World War 1

As Australia prepares itself for the commemoration of World War 1, a range of activities are being organized across Tasmania to share stories from the war and on the home ground.

Clarence Council is curating a major exhibition which explores two sides of the ANZAC story – the experience of Clarence people serving overseas and the effects of the war on those left behind. Prominent amongst the exhibits will be the wartime diaries of Agnes Hanslow – Bellerive resident and mother of Roy Hanslow who enlisted in 1915. These diaries and artefacts still in the possession of Agnes' granddaughter, Betty Marmion, provide a unique insight into the extraordinary stresses suffered by those left behind, waiting every day for news from the front.



Image courtesy of Betty Marmion

Funded by the Australian Government ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program and Clarence Council, the exhibition will also explore the experience of men and women who enlisted from Clarence using artefacts, historic photographs and film footage.

The Centenary of Anzac: Service at Home and Abroad will be exhibited at The Barn at Rosny Farm from 24 April to 21 May 2015, 11:00am – 5:00pm, Wednesday to Sunday.

In the north of the State, the Launceston Historical Society is hosting a talk focusing on the life of Private William Gow, a Tasmanian ambulance man at Gallipoli.

Presented by Julian Burgess, the talk will focus on the diary of Private Gow who served the the 3rd Field Ambulance at Gallipoli.

This free event will be held at the QVMAG Museum (Inveresk) Meeting Room at 2pm, Sunday 12 April 2015. For further information email launcestonhistory@gmail.com.

Field School Explores the Archaeology of Willow Court

By Kathleen Gorey and Hannah D. Martin-Brown,
Flinders University Historical Archaeology Field School

The untapped research potential of Australia's oldest, continually used mental health facility, which operated from 1827 to 2000, is being explored by Flinders University.

To explore the untapped potential, Flinders University's Historical Archaeology Field School organised a field school in early 2015 to further understand what remains of the historic site.



The field school is part of a long-term archaeological investigation planned at Willow Court. The initial stage was primarily involved in cataloguing items that remained in the hospital on its closure. The work builds upon previously completed catalogues in order to form a more accurate and cohesive record.

Photo old boot found in the Barracks during cataloguing.
Photo: Kathleen Gorey

The catalogue currently stands at 1219 entries, with items ranging from books and archival documents, to medical equipment and building materials. This will be added to over the years as the project progresses and will go on to form part of the lasting record of the site.

While still in its initial stages, the project has already benefited from the knowledge and support provided by community interest groups and members of the general public. However there are still gaps in our knowledge of the facility. If anyone has any information they feel would be relevant to the project, or would like to know more about it, please contact Heather Burke at heather.burke@flinders.edu.au.

Female heritage advocates honoured

Three women working in the historic heritage sector have been entered on Tasmania's Honour Roll of Women.

Historian Marita Bardenhagen (1961-2012) has documented the lives of hundreds of Tasmanians and become an advocate for women's history.

Marita's passion for oral history developed during her studies for a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Tasmania in the 1980s. Her studies culminated with a PhD focusing on the how the pioneering bush nursing service delivered health services to rural and remote Tasmania. Her passion for bush nursing resulted in a touring exhibition *Ordinary Women: Extraordinary Lives*.

Linda Clark has played a leading role in the conservation of Tasmania's cultural heritage and was one of the first female archaeological conservators in Australia. For several decades she was the only qualified and practicing objects conservator in Tasmania.

Amongst her many roles, Linda has been the Objects Conservator at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, and Conservation Manager for the National Trust of Australia (Tasmania). Linda spent five seasons conserving artefacts from the internationally significant Sydney Cove shipwreck off Flinders Island and curated the acclaimed national travelling exhibition *Cargo for Colony: the Wreck of the Sydney Cove*. Her work conserving these objects, largely alone, was one of the largest maritime archaeological conservation projects ever undertaken in Australia.

Wendy Andrew came to Tasmania in 1991 for a 'quiet life'. Instead, she rapidly joined community activities.

Wendy's voluntary work included a project managing the conservation of historic graves in Rokeby, including that of Tasmania's first Chaplain, Reverend Robert Knopwood. She also helped produce educational kits about the local environment and history for schools, and giving talks about heritage and the environment. In 2000, Wendy researched the history of Rokeby and designed signage and brochures for the Old Rokeby Historic Trail for Landcare. This inspired Wendy to write the book *Footprints: The People and Places of Early Clarence Plains and Rokeby* in 2008.

For more information and details visit www.dpac.tas.gov.au/community

Grants

Small Museums and Collections Program

Closes Monday 6 July 2015

The Small Museums and Collections program offers assistance towards the curatorial and collection management practices of smaller public and community collections in Tasmania. The program can provide grants and the allocation of time with a professional roving curator. For further information visit www.arts.tas.gov.au/small museums or call Arts Tasmania on 6165 6666.

Central Coast Council Community Grants Small Grants Scheme

Closes 10 April 2015

This Scheme provides grants to support projects and activities which contribute to the development of communities. For details visit <http://www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=557>

National Library of Australia Community Heritage Grants 2014

Closes 1 May 2015

Community Heritage Grants of up to \$15,000 are available to assist in preserving cultural heritage collections of national significance. Not-for-profit organisations such as historical societies, regional museums, public libraries and Indigenous and migrant community groups are encouraged to apply. For more details visit www.nla.gov.au/chg/guidelines

Events

Postcards from the Front: WW1 Tasmanian Soldiers as Tourists

A TAHO Public Lecture Series presentation by Nicola Goc
Allport Library and Museum
Thursday 2 April, 1:00pm – 2:00 pm

The opportunity for overseas travel and adventure is often cited as a reason for Australian soldiers to enlist in World War One. It is hard for us in the 21st Century to understand – the risks seem so disproportionate. But it is arguable that both the perception of risk and the desire to go overseas were important motives. This talk looks at the experiences of three Tasmanian men: William Spowart, from Storey's Creek; Colin Chalmers from Bellerive; and Joe Rankin from Launceston. It explores the way they each used tourist postcards to construct personal narratives about their war experiences to loved ones back home.

Oral History Workshop

Oral History Tasmania Inc. (formerly OHAA [Tas] Inc.)
Tolosa Room, Glenorchy LINC, 4 Terry Street
23 May 2015, 10.00am - 4.45pm

Presented by Jill Cassidy, this workshop will cover interview technique, pitfalls, ethics, equipment and transcribing. The cost is \$50 (\$30 students) and includes lunch. Prior registration is essential. To register contact Jill on mandjcassidy@gmail.com or 0418 178 098.

Sixth Longford Academy

Australasian Chapter of the Association for Preservation Technology (International)
Brickendon and Woolmers Estates
11-15 May 2015

The Longford Academy follows a model of collaborative learning in advanced conservation techniques through hands-on engagement with heritage fabric and place. Expressions of interest in attending LA6 are now sought by email to the Convenor at apt.australasia.chapter@gmail.com

Participants pay an attendance fee to defray costs. Accommodation is available on site by arrangement with Brickendon (<http://brickendon.com.au/>) and Woolmers (<http://www.woolmers.com.au/>).

If you would like to contribute information, advertise an upcoming event, subscribe to receive this newsletter via email, or cancel your subscription, please email enquiries@heritage.tas.gov.au or phone 1300850 332