

PORT ARTHUR TALKS

Jane Franklin at Port Arthur

presented by Dr Alison Alexander

In a period when most ladies sat at home with their embroidery, Jane Franklin achieved fame throughout the western world, and was probably the best travelled woman of her day. Born in late eighteenth century London and married at the age of 36 years to Sir John Franklin, she travelled widely, and with an original ambition to live life to the full she was equally desirous of making her kind and mild husband a success. Arriving in Tasmania in 1837 when Sir John became governor, she swept like a whirlwind through the colony: attempting to rid the island of snakes; establishing a scientific society and the Hobart regatta; and adopting an Aboriginal girl to name a few of her many activities.

In 1837 the Franklins visited Port Arthur. In her diary and letters, Jane Franklin, an acute observer, gave a full and frank description of her visit. This paper analyses this description.

Alison Alexander has written 24 books about Tasmanian history, ranging from commissioned histories of a variety of institutions and areas, to biographies. Her most important books are: *The ambitions of Jane Franklin* (2013), and *Tasmania's Convicts* (2010).

ALL WELCOME!

Thursday 27 March, 2014 at 5.30 p.m.

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

For more information call 6251 2324

