

Professional Historians Association (Tasmania) and the  
Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office

# PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

Allport Library, 91 Murray Street, Hobart

Thursday 5 June 2014, 1.00 pm. Admission free

RSVP by 3 June to Allport Library, phone 03 6165 5584

## STORY'S STORIES

### *Doctor of the Black Wars*

Nicholas Brodie

George Fordyce Story is a little-known figure on the edge of history, both actually and literally, yet his importance to Tasmanian historiography has been profound. Supposed by some people to have harboured Aborigines from the authorities, he was demonstrably provisioning Roving Parties, the Black Line, and Robinson's 'Friendly Mission' in his role as a government employee. Rather than collecting stories from Aborigines, he was an enthusiastic collector of their bones.

As historical and ethnographic interest in the Tasmanian Aborigines grew in the later nineteenth century, Story was a crucial link in the networks of correspondence and enquiry, collecting information from old settlers. My research into Story's stories, both lived and told, therefore helps to unpick crucial elements of both the history and historiography of the Tasmanian Aborigines and the 'Black War'.

*Nicholas Brodie studied History and Archaeology at the Australian National University before coming to Tasmania to undertake Doctoral studies, looking at late medieval and early modern England, which he completed in 2010. He has worked at the National Archives of Australia, lectured in History and Aboriginal Studies at the University of Tasmania, and is currently focused on consultancy work and writing.*

