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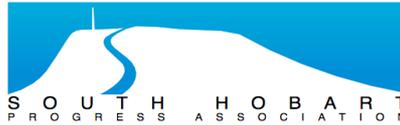
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President: Rosemary Sandford

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**No. 295 June 2012**

ABN 65 850 310 318

### NEXT SHPA MEETING

Our next regular General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 13th June, 2012** in *The South Hobart Community Hall*, 42 D'Arcy Street, commencing at 8:00 pm. All residents are welcome to attend - especially those new to the suburb. The Association reminds residents that **membership** of the SHPA Inc. is only \$2 per annum.

### STH HOBART BUSHCARE

*South Hobart Bushcare Group* will be meeting again on will be meeting on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June** between **10:00 am to 12:30 pm**. We meet at the Ingram Street end of *Wellesley Park*. All are welcome to join us for as long as you are able. (All tools are provided.) Enquiries to **Janet** on **6223 8132**.

### CASCADE GARDENS DISCOVERIES

Recent archaeological works in *Cascade Gardens* have resulted in some exciting discoveries about Hobart's early water supply. *Austral Tasmania* was engaged by *Southern Water* to provide archaeological services as part of upgrade works to a sewer line running through the gardens. With the establishment of the *Cascades Female Factory* in 1827, surrounding land, including the gardens site, was reserved to prevent development near the factory. A dam was constructed across the *Hobart Rivulet* to supply water to the factory. The dam was later augmented in 1836 to drive a water wheel that powered a fulling mill, an industrial site for the cleaning of cloth. Problems with the supply of water to the people of Hobart had long plagued the colonial authorities. The Rivulet's flow of clean water was one of the key reasons for choosing *Sullivans Cove* for the establishment of Hobart in 1804. It did not take long for the stream to become polluted, so a series of schemes were developed to source fresh water from higher up the Mountain. Perhaps the most controversial was that developed by Peter Degraives in 1844. Degraives constructed a reservoir off Macquarie Street, where the badminton courts are now located. This was fed by a buried sandstone aqueduct which started in what is now *Cascade Gardens*.

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Almost immediately, the new scheme came under severe public and official criticism. Before reaching the reservoir, the water travelled through Degraives' flour mills, brewery and sawmill. The quality and quantity of the water was often poor and the flow of water even stopped on numerous occasions. Some 2,000 citizens of Hobart petitioned the Governor and an official enquiry resulted in the water supply system being taken over by the Government. Careful archaeological works uncovered the remains of a sandstone wall, a sandstone water-race and a brick-lined box drain. Each structure was carefully exposed and detailed records were made. One of the more impressive discoveries was the sandstone water-race which was fed from Degraives' mill. Finely constructed, the race was 80 centimetres deep and 90 centimetres wide. Some of the blocks were massive: the largest was 1.25 metres long and 27 centimetres deep. These features were identified from the original contract specifications. The specifications detailed that the tail race was to be fitted with a sluice gate and fender, and a vertical cut in the wall where the gate could be lowered or raised to regulate the flow of water was found. We also found how the builders kept the race from leaking. One of the outside edges of the wall was packed with heavy clay. This is consistent with the contact requiring the channel to be 'puddled', where clay was worked into a thick watertight paste before being applied. The works uncovered an important and somewhat controversial part of Hobart's history. The supply of fresh water has been crucial to the history of Hobart. The Cascades scheme predates by some 17 years the later, and far more successful, *Mountain Water Supply System*. Cascades provided all of Hobart's reticulated drinking water until the 1860s, and remained in service until the 1890s.

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[Submitted by James Puustinen,  
Senior Heritage Research Consultant,  
Austral Tasmania Pty Ltd.]

## JANE FRANKLIN MUSEUM UPDATE

The Saving Ancanthe Action Group (SAAG) would like to thank the people of South Hobart for their support in signing the Petition regarding land adjoining Ancanthe Park and the Lady Franklin Gallery in Lenah Valley. The subdivision of the land is likely to be approved with conditions. However, the Petition, with over 1000 signatures, is recognised as expressing the strong community support for Council to purchase the land. The SAAG group is compiling a submission to the Hobart City Council for purchase of the subdivision with the purpose of focussing international attention on the Franklins and the site. Already, many Australian & international signatures have been gained in support. An individual submission, offering to assist the Council hold a meeting of the key groups and organisations in the locality, all of whom have potential to operate heritage or environmental or arts projects on the Ancanthe land and block 270A, if purchased, has also been lodged. The SAAG knows action is being considered and encourages you to keep lobbying aldermen and politicians on this issue.

## NEW LOCAL BUSINESS

*Fairy Wren Horticultural Services* is a new, local horticultural business providing a range of specialist and general services to help you make your garden as good as it can be! Call Jessica for a free quote. Contact her on 0409 356 733 or email [jessica.white@fairywren.com.au](mailto:jessica.white@fairywren.com.au) or [www.fairywren.com.au](http://www.fairywren.com.au).

## FEMALE FACTORY FIND

What is believed to be an historically significant item, discovered by chance at a charity book fair held in Burnie, has been donated to the *Cascades Female Factory*. The book, an edition of *Poems on Several Occasions* by English poet John Gay

dating from the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early nineteenth century, is believed to have belonged to a convict in early Hobart. According to Dr Jody Steele, Heritage Programs Manager for the *Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority* (PAHMSA), which manages the *Cascades Female Factory*, there are very few items that are known to have been owned by or associated directly with particular female convicts. "This book is particularly exciting, because it has an inscription and several names inside the front covers, presumably of people who have owned it." One of the names, Hannah Barker, came up on a search of the Female Convict Research Centre's database. "There were two Hannah Barkers in the colony at that time, only one of whom could read and write," said Dr Steele. "This Hannah, a convict, was in the Hobart Town factory before *Cascades* was built. She married George Dexter, also a former convict, in 1827. They had no children. When George died at Hobart, he left his wife very well provided for and also left money to the poor of Hobart Town and the Orphan School. Hannah Dexter, nee Barker, died in Hobart in 1878 aged 86." A forensic handwriting expert is being sought to compare the book's inscription with Hannah's marriage certificate, to hopefully confirm the book's provenance. The book was donated by the *Burnie Emu Bay Lions Club*, which ran the book fair at which it was discovered by volunteer Pam Thorne. Pam and her husband Neil (former President of the Club) recognised that the book might have some historical interest and contacted Professor Lucy Frost, President of the *Female Convict Research Centre*.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Contributions are welcome and should be forwarded to the Newsletter Editor, PO Box 200 South Hobart 7004 or to [dhalserogers@hotmail.com](mailto:dhalserogers@hotmail.com) by the first Monday of each month.

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