



# FRIENDS OF THE ORPHAN SCHOOLS

## St John's Park Precinct New Town Tasmania

Issue 20

NEWSLETTER

August 2014

### **Annual General Meeting Sunday 17 August 2014 2.00pm, Old Sunday School, St John's Park, New Town**

Our Convenor, Dr. Dianne Snowden, will deliver the Annual Report and Office Bearers for 2014-15 will be elected.

**All World War I Soldiers deserve our commemoration.** Guest speaker Andrea Gerrard will talk about the work she and husband Ron have been doing to identify the unmarked graves of World War I soldiers buried across Tasmania – 220 from Cornelian Bay alone! With the 100-year anniversary of WWI upon us, Andrea, historian and Friends member, will talk about the project to identify these men and provide headstones to mark their final resting place.

### **Wattle Day September 2014**

Last year, to celebrate Wattle Day, the Friends spent a very pleasant afternoon in the sunshine in St John's Orchard, the garden of the Lenah Links Community Group. Originally, funds were raised on Wattle Day for those in the Consumption Chalets. The wattle later became the symbol of the fight against tuberculosis in Tasmania. We will be doing something simi-

lar this year and will let you know the details as soon as possible.

### **Have you seen the Chalets recently?**

Conservation work on the Chalets is nearing completion. Project Manager Simon Cocker and his team have done an outstanding job – well worth a look next time you visit the precinct!

### **Did You Know?**

A rare violet, discovered years ago in the St. John's Burial Ground, is being cultivated by the Friends of the Orphan Schools.

Come along to the Annual General Meeting and hear more about this treasure.

### **Web Site**

Our web site continues to attract a steady stream of visitors, searching for an orphan. Many descendants who have claimed an orphan have been contacted by other descendants or researchers who have found their claim and story. 725 of our 5959 orphans have been claimed. Have you claimed yours?

It's easy to find yours when the name is an exact match but multiple names, unusual spelling and even errors in the original admission registers can sometimes conspire to make searching difficult. We recently added two advanced



search options. The first; *sounds like*, will help find incorrect or unusual spellings. If that doesn't work then an *advanced search by all name fields* allows a complex combination search by orphan, mother and father names, admittance dates and ships of arrival.

Our Web Manager Andrew Cocker has done a remarkable job creating and maintaining our website.

### **'Voices from the Orphan Schools'**

Convenor Dianne Snowden has been publishing a regular series of articles, 'Voices from the Orphan Schools', in *Tasmanian Ancestry* since June 2011. Reference copies are available at the Old Sunday School.

#### **2011**

Vol.32 No.1 pp.9-10, Jun  
'The *Blackfriar* 1851'

Vol.32 No.2 pp.99-100, Sep  
'The *Tasmania* (2) 1845'

Vol.32 No.3 pp.140-142, Dec  
'Mary Cullen and the *Neva*'

#### **2012**

Vol.32 No.4 pp.216-220, Mar  
'The Leathley Children'

Vol.33 No.1 pp.15-18, Jun  
'A boy named Henry Osborne'

Vol.33 No.2 pp.87-90, Sep  
'Isabella Jones formerly Forbes'

Vol.33 No.3 pp.135-136, Dec  
'Susan Chickley's Children'

#### **2013**

Vol.33 No.4 pp.209-212, Mar  
The Children of the *Rajah*' Pt.1

Vol.34 No.1 pp.25-28, Jun  
'The Children of the *Rajah*' Pt.2

Vol.34 No.2 pp.77-79, Sep  
'Edward Deans, Orphan School Boy'

Vol.34 No.3 pp.153-154, Dec  
'George Jones, Apprentice'

#### **2014**

Vol.34 No.4 pp.213-215, Mar  
'The Apprentices'

#### **Fox's Feast 2014**

Our annual Fox's Feast celebration was held on Sunday 16 February. Life Member Joyce Purtscher presented an excellent paper on other children's institutions. It was much enjoyed by a good-size crowd of regulars as well as some new faces.

During Fox's Feast 2014, Convenor Dianne Snowden launched an appeal for signage and interpretation for the Burial Ground, which currently has nothing to indicate that it is a burial ground. We have raised a small amount of funds. If you would like to join the Burial Ground Interpretation Committee, please contact Dianne Snowden [[convenor@orphanschool.org.au](mailto:convenor@orphanschool.org.au)]. If you would like to contribute, please come to the AGM or contact our Treasurer Simon Cocker.

At Fox's Feast, we also acknowledged the death during the week of our Inaugural Secretary, Kate Carlisle. Kate was a hard worker who was committed to the work of the Friends group from the time it started.

#### **Publications**

We currently have several products we are pleased to offer for sale:

##### **1. Deaths and Burials in the Parish of St John's New Town by Rosemary Davidson**

This invaluable 71 page book is published by The Friends of the Orphan Schools and is the only compilation of its kind. It is currently available at the price of \$25.00 including packaging and Australian postage.

##### **2. Deaths at the New Town Charitable Institution July 1895 - December 1912**

This 39 page book compiled by Joyce Purtscher and published by The Friends of the Orphan Schools provides recently discovered information that was not previously available. The cost is \$20.00 including packaging and Australian postage.

##### **3. A set of postcards**

A set of six beautiful postcards and envelopes; ideal for framing, sending to someone special or as a memento. They include the boys' orphan school and the church, the beautiful infant orphan school building and rare inside photos of the church orphan and convict galleries. They are beautifully presented, complete with envelopes and cost just \$15.00 including packaging and Australian postage.

##### **4. The First True Friends of the Orphanage**

This little booklet tells the story of the bequests of John Fox and George Dexter which, for many years, funded the annual Fox's Feast picnic and a generous prize. The cost is \$5.00 including packaging and Australian postage.

##### **5. School Days at the Queen's Orphan Schools, New Town**

This booklet was transcribed by Joyce Purtscher from the British Parliamentary papers for the Friends of the Orphan Schools on the occasion of the Fox's Feast picnic held in 2010. The report by Inspector of Schools, Charles Bradbury, on the Queens Orphanage for Lieutenant Governor Sir William Denison provides a detailed insight into what life was like for the inmates. The cost is \$5.00 including packaging and Australian postage.

##### **Forthcoming publication 2015**

Dianne Snowden, our Convenor, and Joan Kavanagh, from County Wicklow, Ireland, are in the finishing stages of their book about

the convict ship *Tasmania* (2), which arrived in Hobart Town in 1845. Next year marks the 170th anniversary of the ship's arrival. Joan and Dianne plan a September book launch in Ireland (when the ship left) and another in Hobart in December (when the ship arrived).

Nearly 30 children who arrived on the *Tasmania* (2) were admitted to the Orphan Schools shortly after the ship arrived or when they were weaned. At least four died in the Orphan School; they were Robert Burgess, aged two,

son of Esther Burgess; Ann Byrne, aged two years three months, daughter of Ann Byrne; John Docherty, aged three, son of Ann Dogherty; and Sarah Anne Kelly, aged ten, daughter of Margaret Kelly.

If you are descended from the *Tasmania* (2) women and children, please contact Dianne and Joan for more information about their 2015 project: [dsnowden@tassie.net.au](mailto:dsnowden@tassie.net.au).

### 2014 Deadlines for articles for newsletter

Wednesday 12 November: Deadline for articles for December newsletter.

### Contact us

Friends of the Orphan Schools,  
PO Box 461,  
North Hobart,  
TAS 7002

email:

[secretary@orphanschool.org.au](mailto:secretary@orphanschool.org.au)

telephone message:

03 6285 2654

CHILD'S NAME	MOTHER	CHILD'S NAME	MOTHER
James Austin	Margaret Grady	Ann Ferguson	Mary McGowan
Elizabeth Burgess	Esther Burgess	Bridget Grace	Catherine Grace
Alicia Burgess	Esther Burgess	Catherine Grace	Catherine Grace
Jane Burgess	Esther Burgess	Mary Grace	Catherine Grace
William Burgess	Esther Burgess	Edward Griffin	Mary Griffen
Robert Burgess	Esther Burgess	Eliza Griffin	Mary Griffen
Mary Ann Butler	Margaret Butler 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mary Anne Griffin	Mary Griffen
William Butler	Margaret Butler 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sarah Anne Kelly	Margaret Kelly
Ann Byrne	Ann Byrne	William Moran	Ann McNeill
James Connell	Mary Connell	Rose Murphy	Mary Murphy
Margaret Connell	Mary Connell	Margaret O'Brien	Mary O'Brien 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Patrick Connell	Mary Connell	Joseph Rutherford or Carroll	Sarah Brennan
John Docherty	Ann Dogherty	Mary Ann Wall	Mary Wall