



FRIENDS OF THE ORPHAN SCHOOLS

St John's Park Precinct New Town Tasmania

Issue 16

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER
MEMORIAL GARDENS PROJECT

December 2012

Welcome to this special edition of the Friends of the Orphan School newsletter in which we share with you something of our celebrations to mark the completion of our Memorial Gardens project. This project has been ongoing throughout

tend the Sunday morning ceremony at which the Lord Mayor of Hobart, Alderman Damon Thomas officiated. Our Convenor, Dianne Snowden welcomed the Lord Mayor along with our other invited guests: the Hon. Scott Bacon

family connection to the Orphan Schools and provided some sobering insight into life and death in the institution. Before unveiling the plaques, the Lord Mayor spoke of the precinct as a place of some sorrow. He attached a partic-



2012 and was completed on 21 October with the unveiling of three memorial plaques bearing the names of the four hundred or so children who died while at the Orphan Schools.

More than fifty of our supporters braved wintry conditions to at-

MP, Elise Archer MP, Matthew Groom MP, Rob Valentine MLC, Aldermen Phillip Cocker and Leo Foley, and Emeritus Professor Lucy Frost from the Female Convicts Research Centre based at the Cascades Female Factory Historic Site. Dianne then outlined her

ular significance to the memorial as a vehicle for healing – a way to make amends for past wrongs. He also paid tribute to the Friends group for their work in raising the profile of the precinct while also acknowledging its potential for heritage recognition and develop-

ment. His insightful comments and enthusiastic support were much appreciated.

The project has been a very satisfying undertaking for the Friends of the Orphan Schools, St John's Park Precinct. We have been overwhelmed by some generous donations and the many messages of support and thanks we have received, including several from people who were sad they could not join us on 21 October. Anne Atkinson from Victoria sent this lovely message:

As I live in Victoria I will be unable to attend this event. But I would like to thank you all for this beautiful gesture on behalf of my Great, Great grandmother's daughter Caroline Little. It is so nice to know she is not forgotten.

And from those who were there we also received important messages. Kerry Sherston Smith wrote that "*Benjamin Sherston was a great-great uncle to me, and it is very important to me to see this plaque in place and these poor souls given the respect that they deserve.*"

The garden is now well established and thriving – the roses are blooming and the box hedge shows much evidence of new growth and together with the plaques is a lasting memorial to children who otherwise would not be remembered.

The Committee would like to thank:

A & M Porteous
Colleen Read
Elise Archer
Maurice Appleyard
Brian Mansfield
Aileen Ashford

ABBOTT Selina	1855	BULLOCK Thomas	1852	CONNOR James	1853	DOYLE Martha	1854
ACRES James	1848	BUNNION John	1854	CONNORS Ann	1854	DWYER William	1854
ADAMS Richard	1843	BURGESS Hugh	1840	CONNORS Bridget	1861	EDGE Esther	1870
ANGUS James	1844	BURGESS Mary Ann	1854	CONNORS Mary	1858	EDWARDS John	1854
ANSON William	1849	BURGESS Robert	1846	COOKE Margaret	1843	ELDRIDGE Benjamin	1841
ARMSTRONG Robert	1856	BURNS Henry	1856	COPELAND Jessie	1854	ELLIS Elean	1881
ARTHUR James	1835	BUSCH Francis	1855	COPE Alfred	1849	ESLER Mary Jane	1857
ASHLEY Margaret	1861	BUTLER Edward	1858	CROSBIE Thomas	1838	FANJAN Thomas	1854
BARCLAY Henry	1854	BUTLER Eliza	1855	CROUCH Ann	1842	FAHY Catherine	1854
BARCLAY William	1851	BYERS David	1850	CURRIE Michael	1856	FAIRLEY Sarah	1861
BARRETT Thomas	1854	BYRNE Ann	1849	CURTAIN Mary	1856	FARREL Julia	1835
BELBY Harriett	1856	BYRNE Daniel	1848	GUTTLE/ECCLLESTON		FARRELL Elizabeth	1841
BELL Catherine	1842	BYWATER Jane	1848	Jane	1860	FARRELL Mary	1849
BENMONROCK	1835	CALLON John	1842	DAILEY/DAILY John	1834	FELBIS Thomas	1853
BENT Emma	1843	CAPEL Amelia	1854	DALE Mary Ann	1835	FINAGAN Thomas	1855
BESTON John	1851	CASSIDY Francis	1855	DALEY Catherine	1855	FIREBOKE Beker	1835
BIRMINGHAM Henry	1854	CASSIDY Richard	1856	DALTON John	1836	FITZGERALD Eliza	1846
BIRMINGHAM James	1837	CATLIN Susan	1855	DINGWELL Georgiana	1855	FITZGERALD Michael	1834
BOSANQUET Richard	1855	CAVANAGH John	1854	DANKE John	1854	FITZPATRICK Patrick	1836
BRENNAN John	1842	CAVANAGH Sarah Ann	1853	DAVIDSON Ann	1857	FLARTY James	1856
BRENNAN Patrick	1843	CAVANAH Sarah	1849	DAVIES/BROWN		FLOWERS Eliza	1837
BRENTWELL Elean	1844	CHALLENGER Charles	1858	Sophia	1848	FOGARTY James	1855
BRENTWELL George	1847	CHALLENGER Margaret	1859	DAVIES Eliza	1843	FOSTER Mary	1834
BRITCLIFFE James	1854	CHARLES	1839	DAVIS William	1855	FRANKLIN John	1857
BROGAN Thomas	1856	CLARK George	1856	DAY Jane	1858	FREDRICK	1835
BROOKES Emma	1842	CLARKE Charles	1840	DEVANY James	1835	FREZZOYE William	1839
BROWN Albert	1848	CLARKE John Thomas	1858	DINGLE William	1857	GALLACHER Ann	1843
BROWN Edward	1842	CLARKE Sandford	1855	DOCHERTY John	1848	GARNETT William	1852
BROWN Susan	1848	CLIFFORD Henry	1860	DOCHERTY Mary Ann	1843	GEORGE	1835
BRUSH David	1860	COHEN Ranny	1835	DONNELLY Arthur	1842	GIBBONS Alexander	1857
BRUSH Walter	1858	COLE Ann	1848	DOUBLE Francis	1844	GILL Ann	1855
BRYAN Edward	1853	COLEMAN George	1854	DOUGLAS William	1856	GILLOE Mary Ann	1843
BUCHANAN Isabella	1852	CONNOLLY James	1843	DOWNHAM Thomas	1848	GINN Susannah	1853

GRVAN Thomas	1843	HILL Jane Sarah	1859	LAKE Frederick Banks	1838	MCDONALD Archibald	1848
GLASGOW Elizabeth	1855	HODGKINSON Sophia	1856	LAMON William	1860	McDOWELL John	1861
GLEESON Margaret	1837	HOLDEN William	1864	LAPHAM James	1843	McGREGOR John	1858
GLJJE Charlotte	1837	HOLDING/GOLDING		LARKIN Patrick	1854	McGUCHANE/GLUCKIN	
GLJJE Jermina	1857	JAMES	1843	LATHAM Elizabeth	1860	James	1859
GOLDF James	1843	HOPKINS Ann	1843	LEARY Beauchamp	1856	McGUNNESS Elizabeth	1856
GORDON Benjamin	1834	HORSFIELD Henry	1843	LEAHY Elizabeth	1854	McINTOSH Albert	1855
GRADY William	1841	HOUGHTON Jane	1843	LETTICE Michael	1842	McKay Janet	1854
GRANT Catherine	1834	HUGHES Charlotte	1844	LITTLE Caroline	1854	McKay William	1855
GRANT James	1843	HUGHES Sarah	1859	LLOYD John	1843	McKENNA Bridget	1842
GREEN Caroline	1843	HUME John	1854	LOCK Lucy	1834	McKENZIE Thomas	1843
GREEN Sarah	1861	HUMPHREYS		LOGAN William	1856	McLEOD William	1843
GREEN or CRINE John	1860	HURLEY Alexander	1843	LOW Edward	1861	McLEOD Margaret	1841
GREGG Mary Ann	1854	HUTCHINSON Margaret	1843	LYNCH Ann	1856	McMAGH Elizabeth	1849
GRONER Thomas	1842	RYVINE John	1843	MACKSTAY Ann	1844	McMAHON Thomas	1861
HALFPENNY Catherine	1834	JONES	1854	MAHONEY Jane	1855	McQUADE Thomas	1855
HALLMC Herman	1856	JOHNSON George	1854	MALLAM Ann Elizabeth	1834	McQUINN Maria	1855
HANBURY James	1843	JOHNSON Margaret	1843	MALLETT William	1839	MEARS William	1846
HARDINGE Frances	1838	JOHNSON Matthew	1867	MALONE Richard	1842	MERIA Eliza	1843
HARDY Thomas	1842	JONES Frances	1849	MANSELL Mary	1854	MILLER Donald	1837
HARRISON Michael	1843	JONES Richard	1843	MARONEY John	1855	MILLER Mary Ann	1855
HART Ann	1854	KELLY Eliza	1856	MASON George	1841	MILLER Matilda	1855
HART David	1855	KELLY Mary	1842	MASTERS Joseph	1843	MILLER Alice	1846
HARVEY Henry	1855	KELLY Patrick	1854	McANDREW John	1854	MONAGHAN Thomas	1842
HATTON Elen	1854	KELLY Peter	1854	McBRIEN David	1854	MOORE Edward	1843
HAWKES Henry	1854	KELLY Rosannah	1856	McCABE Margaret	1855	MOORE Henry	1843
HAYES William	1854	KELLY Sarah Ann	1848	McCABE Patrick	1861	MORGAN Thomas	1853
HELMAN William	1841	KELLY Thomas	1858	McLANNAN Edward	1854	MORGAN Thomas	1853
HERES Elizabeth	1842	KENNEDY James	1861	McCARTHY Daniel	1849	MOORE Hobben	1835
HICKEY Mary Ann	1860	KILROE James	1858	McCARTHY John	1861	MORIARTY	1852
HIGGINS Sarah	1851	KINSHELA James	1851	McCARTHY Margaret	1860	MORRIS Edward	1843
HIGGINS Thomas	1858	KIRWIN Elizabeth	1855	MCDONALD Alexander	1854	MORTIMER William	1871
HILL James	1843						

MOSS Henry	1843	PRESTON Louisa	1854	SHEEN Mary	1840	WALL Margaret	1854
MULLCAHY John	1854	PRIEST Sarah	1843	SHELDON Agnes	1838	WALLACE Eliza	1848
MURROE Mary Ann	1854	PURCELL Patrick	1843	SHERSTON Benjamin	1869	WALSH Henry	1842
MURPHY John	1854	RAFFERTY Susannah	1849	SHERWOOD Mary	1843	WALSH John	1843
MURPHY Mary Jane	1856	RAWKIN Matilda	1854	SHOE Patrick	1843	WALSH John	1858
MURPHY Thomas	1835	RAWLINGS George	1855	SIMONETTA Dolphina	1847	WALSH Joseph	1846
MURRAY Agnes	1854	REDDING Robert	1837	SKINNER Joseph	1855	WALSH Mary	1844
MURRAY James	1843	READ Mary	1853	SLATTERY William	1843	WALSH William	1863
MUSGRAVE Mary Ann	1842	REGAN Henry	1858	SMITH Anna	1871	WATSON George	1842
NANNIE	1849	REGAN Michael	1856	SMITH Catherine	1861	WEBSTER William	1856
NAYLOR Georgiana	1856	RHODES Franklin	1858	SMITH Eliza	1855	WELSH Edward	1835
NEALE John	1841	RHODES Honorah	1859	SMITH Emma	1843	WEST Mary Ann	1839
NEIL Bridget Ann	1843	RILEY James	1843	SMITH Emma	1855	WHEATLEY Catherine	1857
NEIL Thomas	1843	RILEY John	1844	SMITH George	1836	WHITE Margaret	1843
NETHERTON Jane	1846	ROBERTS William	1856	SMITH James	1843	WHITTON Thomas	1854
NEWBOLD John	1856	ROBERTSON Alice	1841	SMITH Jane	1840	WILLIAMS Ann	1854
NIBBS Ann	1853	ROBINSON Catherine	1836	SMITH Philip	1840	WILLIAMS Edward	1858
NICHOLL Ephraim	1835	ROBINSON Elizabeth	1838	SMITH Rebecca	1835	WILLIAMS Jane	1855
NOLAN Patrick	1855	ROGERS Henry	1847	SMITH Thomas	1842	WILLIAMS Elizabeth	1856
ODGEN George	1854	RUSHFORTH Fanny	1860	SMITHURST Matilda	1838	WILLIAMS Emma	1842
OSBORNE Henry	1860	RYAN Matthew	1861	STEVENSON James	1841	WILLIAMS James	1843
OWEN Elizabeth	1844	RYAN Patrick	1854	TAYLOR Alfred	1843	WILLIAMS Susannah	1846
PARDEW Margaret	1859	RYLEY Elen	1854	TERRY Edward	1861	WILLIAMS William	1861
PARFITT Mary	1846	SAMUEL	1835	THORPE Alfred	1843	WILMOTT Mary	1856
PARKER James	1843	SAUNDERS William	1860	TINA	1835	WILSON Jane	1849
PECK Robert	1854	SAVAGE Charles	1846	TINEY John	1852	WILSON Rachael	1855
PEMBROKE George	1855	SAVAGE Patrick	1843	TULLY	1835	WILSON Richard	1858
PERRIN Richard	1854	SCOTT Janet	1853	TYNAN James	1854	WILSON Thomas	1843
PHILLIPS Henry	1841	SCOTT Margaret	1847	URILL Timothy	1853	WORTH John	1834
PITCHFORD Frederick	1843	SCULLY James	1855	VICKERS John	1843	WRENCH Henry	1846
PLINKETT Henry	1854	SEALY Elizabeth	1842	VIZARD Margaret	1839	WYNNIE Reuben	1838
POWELL Catherine	1854	SEARLE Alfred	1843	WALKENNY	1835	WYNNIE William	1840
PRATT Jane	1843	SHACKLETON Thomas	1841	WALKER Jane	1838	YOUNG Frances	1848

Andrew Cocker
Kerry Sherston and Matthew
Smith
Simon Cocker
Lucy Frost
Berry Dunston

Sue Collins
Shirley Kerin and family
for their generous and kind dona-
tions towards this project – they
are very much appreciated.

Please enjoy Dianne's opening remarks, which follow. For those of you who were interested in a list of the names of the children who died while at the Orphan School we have included photographs of all the plaques. They are also available on our web site

Convenor Dianne Snowden's Address

I am the proud descendant of an Orphan School boy. His name was William Butler and he was my great-great-grandfather. William was ten when he arrived in Van Diemen's Land with his convict mother, Margaret, and two-year-old sister, Mary Ann, on the convict ship Tasmania (2) in 1845. Like many hundreds of children, William was taken from his mother on arrival and admitted to the Male Orphan School. Mary Ann was admitted later to the Female Orphan School. William and his little sister were two of the lucky ones. Three of William and Mary Ann's shipmates, Robert Burgess, and Ann Byrne, both aged two, and Sarah Ann Kelly, aged ten, all died in the Orphan Schools. Remarkably resourceful and resilient, both William and his little sister not only survived but went on to have large families in NSW.

More than 400 Orphan School children were not so fortunate. They died in the Orphan Schools between 1828 and 1879 and it is to remember them that we gather here today. I particularly remember the young Aboriginal children removed from their parents and country, who are buried here. There are many tragic and heart-breaking stories about the children who died in the Orphan Schools. These include a child who died shortly after having been punished with fifteen lashes on the bare back. The rate of mortality in the Orphan Schools was frequently commented on in the colonial press and public health advocate Dr Edward Swarbreck Hall repeatedly called for reform.

I would like to read to you an extract from Hugh Munro Hull's memoirs. He describes coming across an orphan's funeral in 1844:

The Queen's Orphan Schools are situated about two miles from Town, on the front of a gently rising hill, and with the Church between the two buildings, make altogether a good appearance. The Schoolhouses are large brick buildings containing an immense number of rooms, and there are at present about five hundred children of both sexes in them — most of these are the children of the female convicts ... I once, on rambling out towards the Schools last summer heard the Church bell tolling for a funeral, and being curious to see the funeral of one of the little Orphans, I hastened to the Church. Numbers of small mourners with tearful faces showing that they understood the nature of the mournful pageant filled the aisles of the Church. As they left the building two and two walking together towards the burial ground, the sun was just setting behind Mount Anna, and there was not a sound in the air, and on reaching the Gate they commenced singing a beautiful hymn, and their clear little voices rose in harmony. The coffin containing the remains of their little companion who had left them for a better and happier 'playground' was carried by four boys on handkerchiefs. On the coffin being lowered into the grave each little child crept to the edge of the dark hole to take a last look, and then moved away, some of them sobbing bitterly. I followed them into the Churchyard and found many of the tiny graves covered with green grass and small flowers, evidently showing that the hand of a friend had been there.

Finally, as we pause to remember those children who died in the Orphan Schools, I urge you to remember, too, those who left the Orphan Schools to an uncertain future, apprenticed out as farm labourers and domestic servants. We do not have a list of those who died as apprentices but they included Ada Byron, described as a girl of colour, about 15 or 16 years of age, who died in mysterious circumstances in Launceston, probably from an assault; John Martin, about 15, who drowned in Launceston; Benjamin Sherston, who died while pressing hay and Claravance Barker, who died in Hobart.

In 1871 The Mercury, reporting Claravance's inquest, commented

The children of the Asylum when apprenticed out have no further care bestowed upon them. They have no home ties, no one to whom they are entitled to appeal, or from whom they can with childlike confidence seek advice. They are left to the tending of those who, it is to be feared, as a rule look on them as little better than so many beasts of burden, if not plagues and annoyances, to be cuffed and

kicked about at pleasure. How their little hearts must pine and bleed, and how sadly must they often realize the poet's words:—

Alone, that worn out word,
So coldly spoken and so idly heard:
Yet all that poets tell or grief hath known
Of hearts laid waste, dwells in that word
Alone.

The newspaper continued:

Some such feeling seems to have oppressed the girl [Barker] for on “a very wet cold day” she, for fear of a beating, sat “in the yard from about 12 o'clock to 6,” and told a witness “she had no friends, and wished she were dead” and she told the witness’ daughter that further beating would drive her to “go and drown”

Dianne concluded her address with further thanks to the Lord Mayor and “our many members and supporters, especially those who have made the generous donations that allowed us to have the plaques created and installed. Above all, I would like to thank our Committee who work quietly behind the scenes to bring an event like this to fruition, motivated by their commitment to the Orphan Schools and the children who lived here, and their belief in the importance of the site as a nationally significant heritage place. In particular, I would like to thank Joyce Purtscher and Rosemary Davidson whose meticulous and painstaking research over many years has been an integral part of our Memorial Project.”

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support during the year and wish you a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Our first event for 2013 is our Fox’s Feast Picnic Day on Sunday 24 February. We will be in touch early next year with more details but please put this date in your diaries.



Lord Mayor Alderman Damon Thomas and Paul Jones