



FRIENDS OF THE ORPHAN SCHOOLS

St John's Park Precinct New Town Tasmania

Issue 17

NEWSLETTER

February 2013

Fox's Feast Sunday 24 February 2013

This year we will commemorate Fox's Feast – the annual picnic enjoyed by children from the Orphan Schools between 1861 and 1879 – with a picnic on Sunday 24 February 2013. We invite you to join us at midday for a brief welcome and afterwards on the lawns outside the Old Sunday School. Please bring your picnic lunch and a rug or chairs for seating. If the weather is unsuitable, we will picnic in the Old Sunday School. Hot water, tea, coffee and milk will be available for making drinks.

All are welcome to attend this celebration, originally funded from the estate of former convict John Fox. John Fox never married and worked for many years on the Derwent River where he provided transport between New Norfolk and Hobart. At the time of his death in 1859 he bequeathed his estate of almost £500 to the Queen's Orphan Schools. He stipulated his bequest should 'stimulate the industry of the children and ... afford them at least once in the year a day of healthful and innocent recreation'.

The Friends of the Orphan School committee will be available to answer your questions. You are also invited to visit the St John's

Orchard, run by members of the Lenah Links Group and open between 11.30 and 3.00 p.m.

Thomas Heywood Concert, St John's Church, Sunday 24 February 2013

St John's Church will host a concert given by international concert organist, Thomas Heywood in St John's Church at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday 24 February. Tickets for this event are \$25.00 or \$20.00 with concession; children under 13 admitted free. Tickets will be available at the church door as will CD's of other concerts and works by Thomas. Following the concert refreshments will be available in the St John's Parish Hall, opposite the Church in St John's Avenue.

Tasmanian Family History Talk, Tuesday 19 March, 7.30 pm, "The Aboriginal Children who attended the Orphan Schools, 1828-1861"

Those of you who missed Sue Newitt's talk: "The Aboriginal Children who attended the Orphan Schools, 1828-1861" at our Annual General Meeting last year will have another opportunity to hear her speak. Sue has been invited to present this talk as the guest speaker at the Tasmanian Family History's Society (TFHS) meeting

on Tuesday 19 March 2013. The TFHS meets at 7.30 p.m. in our Old Sunday School and visitors are welcome.

Her Story and Visit to the Female Factory, 9.45 a.m. Sunday 24 March 2013

We will visit the Female Factory Historic Site for a mini tour and special performance of *Her Story* on Sunday 24 March 2013. *Her Story* is the tale of a woman convicted in 1832 for stealing a square of silk and transported for seven years. It is a moving dramatization of how life was for the convict women. The 45 minute performance will be followed by a mini tour of the site and a cup of tea provided by the Female Factory Historic Site who are very keen to show us how far they have progressed.

The cost for the excursion (performance, mini tour and refreshments) is \$20.00.

If you would like to come along please RSVP via email to secretary@orphanschool.org.au or leave a phone message: 03 6285 2654

RSVPs must be received by Friday 15 March 2013.

Payment can be made directly to the Female Factory on Sunday morning.

**Friends of the Orphan School,
General Meeting, 2.00 p.m. Sun-
day 28 April 2013**

At the general meeting to be held on Sunday 28 April at 2.00 pm in the Old Sunday School Dr Elaine Crisp will be our guest speaker. Elaine was recently awarded a PhD for her thesis "In Safe Hands: A History of Aged Care in Tasmania." The thesis traces the development of the aged-care sector from its roots in the convict system and throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and her talk will focus on aspects of her thesis.

Elaine currently works as a lecturer in the School of Midwifery and Nursing, University of Tasmania. Later this year she will give a paper about the pioneering work of

**School Groups visit the Orphan
Schools**

Andrew Cocker and Bernadette Bell reported a very successful tour for a group of children from Rosetta Primary School. The children were very well prepared and very enthusiastic about their visit. Following the success of this visit we will look at ways we can encourage more schools groups to visit us. We think this is worthwhile as the new national curriculum places a strong emphasis on local history particularly in the primary years

Aldermen visit the precinct

Late last year, Dianne Snowden conducted a tour of the precinct for several Hobart City Council aldermen. All were very impressed with the site and its poten-

Schools provides information that was not previously available. The cost is \$20.00 including packaging and Australian postage. Details and sample page are available on our web site.

Chalet update

Work on the Sanatorium Chalets continues on Sunday mornings between 10 and 12. Exterior painting of both the Alan Rogers and Rechabite chalets is mostly complete and plans are well underway for relocating the buildings and placing them on solid footings. Interior painting is also planned.

Simon Cocker, Robert Vincent and Brian Webberley have been involved in the project since it began last July; Kim Behrens, Peter Gaggin and Tina Curtis have joined in recent months.



the St John's Geriatric Nurse Training School at the International Nurses Council Annual Conference in Melbourne.

We hope you will join us for what promises to be a most interesting and informative talk about an aspect of the precinct's history about which we know very little.

tial and many were surprised to learn about the depth of history the site has to offer.

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

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) have been big supporter of this project and have recently provided advice and financial assistance for Hobart City Council applications required to complete this work. For more information and photos visit www.orphanschool.org.au/chalet%20project.htm