



# FRIENDS OF THE ORPHAN SCHOOLS

## St John's Park Precinct New Town Tasmania

Issue 32

NEWSLETTER

June 2018

### Membership renewal

The Committee appreciates your support and would like to invite you to renew your membership for the coming year. This year we suggest a donation of \$15.00 (1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019). Your tax deductible membership donation will not only provide invaluable financial support for the Friends of the Orphan Schools, but more importantly, your continued membership is a significant tangible demonstration of community interest in the site and concern for its conservation.

Your continued support will help ensure that the national heritage significance of our precinct, along with the need for conservation and preservation, is recognised. A membership renewal letter will be sent to you shortly.

### Life Membership presented to Rosemary Davidson

Rosie was presented with Life Membership of the Friends of the Orphan Schools for her outstanding contribution since 2008. Most recently, as a result of Rosie's generosity (and the hard work of Web Secretary, Andrew Cocker), the online searchable version of her index *Deaths and Burials in the Parish of New Town* was added to our website.

### New Rowan Gillespie Statues

Irish sculptor Rowan Gillespie has agreed to create a statue of a convict woman for the Cascades Female Factory and two statues, a boy and a girl, for the Orphan School site as part of a new Tasmanian project.

More information will be provided as it comes to hand. Enquiries to [dsnowden@tassie.net.au](mailto:dsnowden@tassie.net.au).

### Female Convicts Research Centre Spring Seminar 28 October 2018

*Topic: A Great Blessing? Convict Women and Orphan School Children*

Lieutenant-Governor Arthur believed it would be 'a great blessing' for the children of convicts to be removed from their parents.

Our next seminar explores the relationship between the Orphan School, the orphans and convict women. In 1828, women convicts transferred from the old Hobart Town Female Factory to the new Factory at the Cascades. In 1828, the King's Orphan Schools opened.

To mark the 190th anniversary of both institutions, our next seminar will be run jointly by the Female Convicts Research Centre and the Friends of the Orphan Schools and it will be held at the Orphan School, St John's Avenue, New Town.

Registrations for the seminar will open late July 2018. If you are interested, please contact Robyn Everist at [submissions@femaleconvicts.org.au](mailto:submissions@femaleconvicts.org.au)



Dianne with Rosie, holding her gift

## Kickstart Arts Centre Events

**Event 1:** Free Creative Workshops led by renowned Tasmanian sculptor Marcus Tatton *Come and sit by the fire and share your story*  
Sunday 3 June 2-5pm  
Sunday 10 June 2-5pm

Facilitating artists at the workshop:

Marcus Tatton, sculptor  
Caroline Amos, visual artist  
Kris Erskine, Celtic history and symbol  
Richard Bladel, community artist and producer  
Afternoon tea provided  
*No arts experience necessary*

*Story Trees Mark Making Workshop*—creating story, finding story essence in image, icon and symbol, fabricating symbols and images from steel, or carving and adding your mark to the Story Trees sculpture.

Are you interested in:

- the Orphan history and heritage
- personal story telling
- making of symbols and images
- sculpture
- the history and philosophy of welfare and social inequality
- visioning a positive future.

*What is the Story Trees Project?*

A cedar tree that grew on the St John's Park site for 80 years had to be felled, and the timber was gifted to Kickstart Arts. We commissioned Marcus Tatton to create a sculpture from the timber that somehow embodies the stories of place and responds to its history. Marcus's Story Trees artwork is a non-figurative response to the orphan children of the nineteenth century and the confinement they experienced.

It is important to us to invite community members to have a lasting role in telling the stories of this place.

*About the artist, Marcus Tatton*

For more information see <http://marcustatton.com/>.

**Event 2:** Open Day 15 July 2018  
"As significant as Port Arthur ..." yet derelict for years..

Repairing a national treasure in New Town

Creating a Place for Community Arts and Culture

**Where:** The former Queen's Orphan School for Boys, built in 1831, St Johns Park, New Town

10.00-2.00 explore the building

12.00-1.00 barbecue

2.00-4.00 Forum: Understand our past to create a better future

Aboriginal Heritage – Social inequality then & now – A mountain of Huon Pine – The Future

**Event 3:** Sunday July 15 2018, 10.00 – 4.00 PM

Invitation to be part of Healing Ground: An Arts Project

What does this place mean to you?

The OPEN DAY will have an optional creative process for interested community members to further explore the significance of these buildings and the issues raised above.

This building is haunting and unique. It has witnessed so many stories. This is a chance to share and work with professional artists to share your stories, responses and ideas and craft a beautiful professional art work that will be presented as part the public launch of the Creative Living Centre building in 2019.

No arts experience necessary.

Richard Bladel, Senior Creative Producer, Kickstart Arts Inc.

## NEW TOWN CHARITABLE INSTITUTION 1900

The Queen's Birthday was loyally observed at this institution and at the Boys' Training School. For dinner there was a plentiful supply of baked meat, potatoes, plum pudding and tea. The old men who had formerly served in the Army or Navy, and the wives and daughters of soldiers, were treated to a good glass of rum at Brevet Lieut-

Colonel Crouch's expense, and every man in the institute received a fig of tobacco from the Government. A number of the boys were permitted out on leave to witness the review. At night there was a bonfire on the hill near the school, and the boys had a liberal supply of fireworks and enjoyed themselves to their heart's content, and at the termination of the sports sang "Soldiers of the Queen" and "Marching to Pretoria," winding up with three cheers for the Queen and three more for the Generals and soldiers now fighting for the Empire, three more for the superintendent, and three more for the officers. An effigy of Kruger was burnt in the bonfire."

[*Mercury* 25 May 1900 p.3.]



Source: Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office

The Boys Training School, established in 1884 as a reformatory for young offenders, was originally located at the Cascades, on the site of the Female Factory. It transferred to the Orphan Schools site at New Town in 1896. In 1922, it transferred to the disused State farm at Deloraine. It was later renamed the Ashley Boys' Home.

## 2018 Deadlines for newsletter articles

1 August 2018

1 November 2018

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## Contact us

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