



# FRIENDS OF THE ORPHAN SCHOOLS

## St John's Park Precinct New Town Tasmania

Issue 31

NEWSLETTER

March 2018

### 1828-2018

2018 marks the 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Orphan Schools. The Friends of the Orphan Schools are planning a number of events to mark the 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The first event was a special Fox's Feast, held in the Kickstart Arts Centre, South Wing (formerly the Girls Orphan School) on Sunday 25 February.

It was officially opened by the Hon. Rob Valentine MLC, who later launched the online version of Rosemary Davidson's index *Deaths and Burials in the Parish of New Town* on the Friends of the Orphan Schools website [[www.orphan.school.org.au](http://www.orphan.school.org.au)]. The generosity of Rosie Davidson and the hard work of Web Secretary, Andrew Cocker, made this possible. Rosie was presented with Life Membership for her outstanding contribution to the Friends of the Orphan Schools.

The Grassroots Union Choir's rousing performance of *William Cuffay and the Brother Slaves* was well-received. There were also short presentations about the lives of some of the orphans by members Simon Cocker, 'Hallo Sarah Briggs'; Caroline Haigh, 'Mary Ann Parker'; and Jane Hodgman, 'Agnes Hay'.

At the conclusion of the talks, Jane Hodgman and Dr Christina Henri presented a bonnet for Mar-

garet Erskine, mother of Agnes Hay, to Revd. Bill Stewart for the St John's Church museum.

Piper James McAlpine's emotional dirge piped the group from the South Wing to the burial ground



Jane Hodgman, Dr Christina Henri and Revd Bill Stewart, of St John's Church.



where rose petals were scattered and where all paused to remember the Orphan School children. After lunch, the special Fox's Feast cake was cut.

The day concluded with a short visit to Cornelian Bay Cemetery





their mother's name was Mary. Their father is named as James Walsh in at least one place in the file (you have him as Michael) but as we all know such discrepancies are common! You also have a child Robert who is not on the list I consulted in CSO5/1/10 but I didn't go back through the entire file this time round. Other than that, this group of siblings is a perfect fit for those above.

Again there are details about the family's circumstances in the file. Hope this proves useful for someone one day.

Have you also made an interesting research discovery? Why not share it with us?

to inspect the headstones removed from St John's Burial Ground in 1963. Thank-you to all those who contributed to the success of the day and especially Kickstart Arts for their support of this event. And a special thank-you to the five interstate visitors who came for the day!

relating to the *William Metcalfe*. The first batch is:

- Eliza Watchorn (FOS 5524)
- James Watchorn (FOS 5525)

According to CSO5/1/10, the father's name was Thomas and there are various other details about the family's circumstances in the file.

The second batch is named in CSO5/1/10 thus:

- Michael Welsh (FOS 5582)
- Patrick Welsh (FOS 5583)
- Thomas Welsh (FOS 5585)
- Biddy Welsh (FOS 5577)
- Julia Welsh (FOS 5581)

According to TAHO, CSO5/1/10

### A Tunnel?

From time to time, we are asked if we know anything about a tunnel which connected the Orphan School to either *Carolside*, 219 New Town Road, or *The Towers*, 1 Tower Road, New Town (below). Our research has not uncovered any evidence of a tunnel and we are at a loss to explain why one may have existed. We will keep working on this and if you have anything that might help us we would love you to share it with us. Contact us at [research@orphanschool.org.au](mailto:research@orphanschool.org.au) or write to us at: PO Box 461, North Hobart, TAS, 7002

### Seminar Sunday 28 October 2018:

Later in the year, there will be a combined seminar with the Female Convicts Research Centre in South Wing. The seminar papers will explore links between the Female Factory and the Orphan Schools. 2018 also marks 190 years since the Cascades Female Factory was established.

**Expect the unexpected!** Member Lisa Hutton, who lives in France, passed on some interesting information she recently discovered. Lisa writes, 'I recently stumbled across a CSO reference for 2 sets of children who, having arrived with parents who were bounty emigrants per *William Metcalfe* in 1838, were subsequently admitted to the King's Orphan School. You already have a number of references noted for these children but not my accidental find, TAHO, CSO5/1/10, a correspondence file





Carolside, National Trust image, 1963.

## TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (TFHS)

### USING DNA FOR FAMILY HISTORY

Are you considering having your DNA tested to support your family history research?

Have you recently been tested and are now wondering how to make sense of your results?

Would you like some help from local experts?

TFHS has been helping members interested in using DNA testing as a family history tool for some time through their DNA Special Interest Group which meets monthly. They are now expanding that service by offering one-hour introductory group sessions in April which will also be open to non-members.

#### 1. CONSIDERING TESTING?

Aimed primarily at people who have some experience with family history research. They probably have a well-developed family tree but are thinking about DNA testing; possibly to add to their tree, prove that their assumptions were correct or even hoping to break down a brick wall or two. Explore:

What is DNA testing and why would you want to do it?

How do I choose which testing company to use?

How do I order a test and what does it cost and involve?

How long does it take?

How do I access my results and

what do they look like?

What to do while you are waiting

This session may also be of background value to people who have already ordered/received their results.

#### 2. MAKING SENSE OF YOUR DNA RESULTS

Aimed at people who have just received, or are about to receive, their DNA results. Walk through live results with a local expert and



learn how to make sense of them. Three separate sessions will be offered. While similar in content,

each will be tailored to FamilyTreeDNA, AncestryDNA or MyHeritage DNA.

#### Saturday 7 April 2018

1.30 – 2.30 Session 1 Considering testing – what to expect

3.00 – 4.00 Session 2.a Making sense of FTDNA results

4.30 – 5.30 Session 2.b Making sense of AncestryDNA results

#### Saturday 14 April 2018

1.30 – 2.30 Session 2.a Making sense of FTDNA results (repeat)

3.00 – 4.00 Session 1 Considering testing – what to expect (repeat)

4.30 – 5.30 Session 2.c Making sense of MyHeritage DNA results

#### Where:

The Old Sunday School, St John's Park, New Town. Please arrive in time to be registered and seated by the advertised start time. Full details of how to get there may be found here:

[www.orphanschool.org.au/where.php](http://www.orphanschool.org.au/where.php)

Cost for each session: \$5 for TFHS members, \$10 for non-members, payable by cash on arrival.

#### Bookings are required:

Contact the Secretary by phone or email stating which date/s and session/s you will be attending: [secretary@hobart.tasfhs.org](mailto:secretary@hobart.tasfhs.org) or 6244 4527

Andrew Cocker

#### 2018 Deadlines for newsletter articles

1 May 2018

1 August 2018

1 November 2018

#### Editor:

Dianne Snowden

#### 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 messages:

03 6285 2654