



FRIENDS OF THE ORPHAN SCHOOLS

St John's Park Precinct New Town Tasmania

Issue 33

NEWSLETTER

August 2018

Website Update

The Find an Orphan search on our website has long allowed descendants to search for and claim their orphan ancestors. An amazing 1,550 orphans have been claimed so far. Thanks to the generosity and meticulous research of Life Member Joyce Purtscher, large numbers of researchers have been able to find their Orphan School ancestor.

Earlier this year we added the fruits of Life Member Rosie Davidson's burial ground research, enabling website users to search the 2,225 deaths and burials that took place in the Parish of St John's. To ensure that these people are not forgotten, we have included the facility to add a story for each burial. Have you checked yet for any burials in your family?

And now in another first, Joyce has generously allowed us to add the admission/discharge details of some 13,850 residents of the New Town Charitable Institution. These can be searched, and a story added.

Stories add to the richness of our heritage and will help us tell the extraordinary story of our St John's Park Precinct.

Transcribers wanted

Can you help with some transcriptions? For our next project we would like to add a searchable

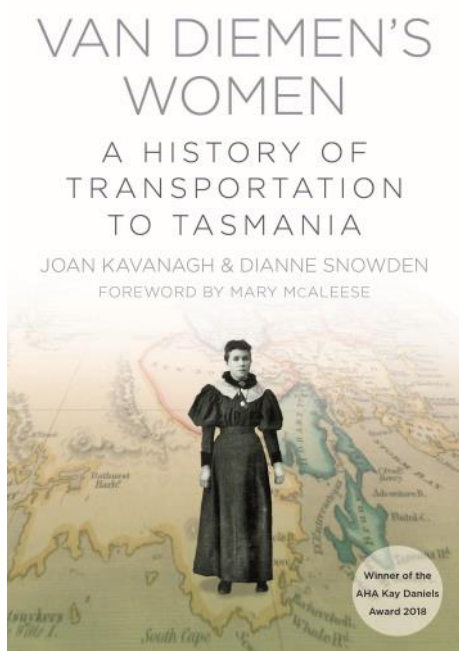
register of the names of those who were cared for in the Tuberculosis Sanatorium. The admission registers are held in the Archives Office but transcribing them can be undertaken at home. Even a small amount would help. If you are interested in learning more about what is involved, please contact our Convenor, Dianne at convenor@orphanschool.org.au.

recognises outstanding original research with a bearing on Australian convict history and heritage including in its international context. *Van Diemen's Women* includes information about the children of the ship *Tasmania* (2) 1845 who were in the Queen's Orphan Schools.

Kickstart Arts Open Day & Forum a Big Success

Kickstart Arts produced a very successful public open day at the former Queens Orphan School for Boys [North Wing] at St John's Park on Sunday, July 15. More than 320 people took the opportunity to look around the building before the repair project gets under way, and were able to read some of the stories of the building's past.

A public forum entitled *Disturbing Echoes* – understanding our past to create a better future – completed the day. The Forum was part of a significant public conversation about the history and contemporary culture of Hobart. It included speakers addressing the Aboriginal heritage of the site, the construction of the building, orphan stories, social inequality, health economics then and now, with short films and information about the repair plans and Creative Living Centre vision. The Friends of the Orphan Schools' Andrew Cocker was one of the speakers.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Joan Kavanagh and Dianne Snowden who were awarded the Australian Historical Association Kay Daniels Award 2018 for their book, *Van Diemen's Women. A History of Transportation*. The Kay Daniels Award rec-



Andrew Cocker speaks at the Forum

These activities are part of the building repair project – Kickstart Arts has raised a total of \$396,000 from federal and state sources to repair the Boys’ Orphan School – which has been derelict for many years – and repurpose it as a community cultural precinct aimed at promoting inclusion and positive health.

For more information, please contact Richard Bladel at: producer@kickstart.org.au

Female Convicts Research Centre and Friends of the Orphan Schools Joint Seminar

Spring Seminar 28 October 2018
‘A Great Blessing? Convict Women and Orphan School Children’.
Program is available and registration is open at :
www.femaleconvicts.org.au.

Lieutenant-Governor Arthur believed it would be ‘a great blessing’ for the children of convicts to be removed from their parents. The seminar explores the relationship between the Orphan Schools, 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 the same year, the King’s Orphan Schools opened.



Andy Vagg and Open day attendees

Many people expressed interest in being involved in an arts project entitled Healing Ground that Kickstart are producing over the next 12 months. Community members are invited to create artworks in which they share stories about the history, the present and future of the site for public presentation at the launch of the completed first round of building repairs later in 2019. Kickstart Arts have a long history in working with community members to help them make beautiful art from personal stories.



The theatre will be repaired

To mark the 190th anniversary of both institutions, the seminar will be run jointly by the Female Convicts Research Centre and the Friends of the Orphan Schools. It will be held in the former Girls Orphan School [South Wing], St John's Avenue, New Town. (<http://www.orphanschool.org.au>)

From the Shadows Update

Following on from the hugely successful *Footsteps towards Freedom* project, a new not-for-profit project, known as *From the Shad-*

ows, has been established to raise funds for three statues by renowned Irish sculptor Rowan Gillespie. Rowan created the *Footsteps towards Freedom* statues on Hobart's waterfront, receiving global media attention.

The newly commissioned statues will include two statues of children for the Orphan Schools in New Town and a female convict statue for the Cascades Female Factory. Three community organisations have been acknowledged as Foundation Supporters: the Friends of the Orphan Schools; Female Convicts Research Centre,

and South Hobart Progress Association. PAHSMA is committed to the project as a Foundation Sponsor.

Since its first meeting on 30 May 2018, the project has achieved incorporation, obtained an ABN, established a bank account, initiated a website and Facebook page and obtained domain names. Its first major fundraising event will be held on 26 August from 10am to 4pm at the Davidson's Magnolia Garden, 15 Pascoe Avenue, Claremont. All are welcome. For more information contact info@fromtheshadows.org.au



The Davidson Magnolia Garden

OPEN GARDEN Sunday 26 August 2018 10am-4pm

15 Pascoe Avenue, Claremont

\$5 per person entry to the garden — to see in particular magnolia trees in flower
\$5 per person extra for a Devonshire tea in the garden
(cup of tea or coffee with two homemade scones served with homemade jam and cream)

Proceeds will benefit *From the Shadows*, a project to enable the stories of convict women and orphan school children to emerge from the shadows of the past. For further information, email info@fromtheshadows.org.au

From the
SHADOWS



Book Sale

The Friends of the Orphan Schools will hold a summer book and CD sale to raise funds for *From the Shadows*. We can pick up any items you wish to donate. Contact: convenor@orphanschool.org.au

Guest Speaker: Caroline Homer, Manager, State Library and Archive Service will talk about crowdsourcing, future projects and the Tasmanian Names Index

Apologies to be sent to secretary@orphanschool.org.au

Please note our new PO Box

Contact us:

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Email:
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Telephone messages:
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Notice of Annual General Meeting

11th Annual General Meeting

Sunday 19 August 2018 2pm

'Old Sunday School', St John's Park, New Town

2018 Deadlines for newsletter articles

1 November 2018

Editor: Dianne Snowden

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