



Friends of the Orphan Schools and St. John's Park Precinct New Town Tasmania

Issue 5

Newsletter

December 2009

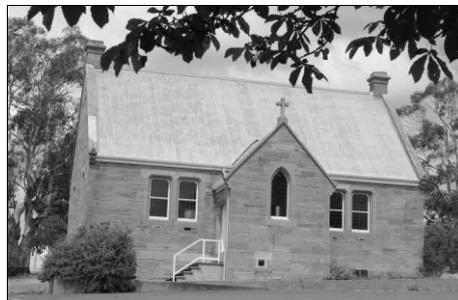
Lease of Sunday School building

Thanks to the determined efforts of Dianne Snowden and Andrew Cocker the Friends of the Orphan Schools and St. John's Park Precinct, (FOSP), has successfully negotiated with the Department of Health and Human Services for the lease of the Sunday School building. FOSP will have exclusive use of this well maintained little building. This is a very exciting development as it provides us with a 'home'. We now have our own space for meetings, workshops, seminars and social functions as well as a store for our research material. Plans for the ways in which the building will be used are still evolving. At this stage the management committee hopes to establish a centre for research and some kind of interpretative display focused on the history of the precinct.

Sunday School/Parish Hall

The building now known as the Parish Hall was constructed in the early 1880's as a Sunday School following the closure of the Queen's Orphan School. Previously St. John's had used a room in the Orphan School but this was understandably unavailable once the school closed in 1879. The building was designed by E.

C. Rowntree and tenders for its construction were called in May 1881. Money to fund the school was raised by subscription from parishioners and a bazaar in August 1882 which contributed £27 16s 7d. The building was opened on 17 August 1882 by the Archbishop of Tasmania, Charles Henry Bromby, who was also a subscriber to the Sunday School.



The Sunday School

Annual General Meeting and Christmas Carols

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Orphan Schools and St. John's Park Precinct will held at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday 10 December 2009 in St. John's Church. At this meeting Dianne Snowden will deliver an annual report and office bearers for 2010 will be elected. A short carol service will follow the official part of the meeting and afterwards we will adjourn to the Sunday School for supper.

As usual members are asked to bring a plate for sharing at supper.

Office Bearers 2010 Are you interested?

If you are interested in a more active role as a member of FOSP why not become a member of our management committee. Nominations are sought for the executive positions of convenor, deputy convenor, minute secretary, treasurer and five general committee persons.

The management committee will also include three ex-officio members: one each from St. John's Church, Ogilvie High School and New Town High School. Each of these organisations is actively interested in our group. These members are appointed by their respective institutions. They do not have voting rights and attend committee meetings on a voluntary basis or as requested by the committee.

We would also like volunteers for the positions of **Publicity Officer and Membership Secretary**.

The Publicity Officer would have responsibility for publicising events such as meetings, excursions and special events in local media while the membership secretary would have responsibility for maintaining a current list of members, contacting them for renewals, distribution of other correspondence and providing assistance to the treasurer.

To hold these positions you don't necessarily have to be a member of the committee with the responsibility of attendance at regular meetings.

Fundraising

Are you interested in event organisation—would you like to organise a fundraising event for FOSP?

At present our only source of income is membership donation and the proceeds of tours. The result is a very modest income, which in turn limits our activities both in terms of active lobbying for the preservation of the precinct and the ability to increase public profile. The acquisition of the Sunday School provides us with an opportunity to establish a permanent display about the precinct as well as a research centre for those interested in tracing family connections. Both these endeavours will raise public awareness of the group and assist our efforts to ensure the national heritage significance of the precinct, along with the need for conservation and preservation is recognised.

If you have any ideas about successful fundraising and are a passionate and skilful fundraiser we would love your help.

Thanks to Karen Stott

For the last two years Karen Stott as general secretary has acted as minute secretary, publicity officer and membership secretary. She has done a fantastic job in managing this responsibility but will be retiring and not seeking re-election. The fact that we have decided to split the position she has managed single-handedly into three different areas of responsibility is testimony to her dedication and commitment. She will continue to have an active role within FOSP.

Fox's Feast

Chris Woods, convenor of our Descendant's Group, Joyce Purtscher and Rosie Davidson have plans underway for a second Fox's Feast. This will be held on Sunday, 28 February 2010.

Membership Renewal

Membership is due for renewal on 1 January 2010. We are happy to accept your membership renewal for 2010 at the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 10 December 2009.

Newsletters

Unfortunately we are unable to continue distribution of our quarterly newsletter to those of you who do not renew your membership. Please renew now so that we can afford to keep you updated on our plans and progress. Our next newsletter, and information on future events, will only go to those who have renewed by the end of February 2010.

St. John's Church December Program 2009

St. John's Avenue, New Town.
Enquiries phone 6228 5965

- 13 December at 10.15 am. Book of Common Prayer Service.
- 20 December at 10.15 am. Carols and readings followed by morning tea.
- 24 December, Christmas Eve 10.30 pm. 'Midnight' Service' carols with procession and Holy Communion.
- 25 December, Christmas Day 10.15 am Carols and Holy Communion.

Summer Concerts 2010

at St. John's Church

- 4 February, Thursday 5 pm. Organ Recital David Featherstone and Mary de Hoog. Donation (towards cost of new roof).
- 21 February, Sunday 2.30pm Thomas Heywood, Australia's brilliant concert organist. Cost to be advised.

St. David's Cathedral Floral Festival
7 February 2010.

Convenor: Dianne Snowden
Deputy Convenor: Toni Sherwood
Secretary: Karen Stott
Treasurer: Simon Cocker
Assistant Treasurer: Roger Stott
Public Officer: Karen Stott
Research Group: Toni Sherwood
Descendants' Group: Chris Woods
Web Manager: Andrew Cocker
Newsletter: Rosie Davidson and Toni Sherwood.

Committee Members: Rosie Davidson, David Featherstone, Warwick Oakman, Joyce Purtscher and Jessie Wagner.

Contact details:

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web site:

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Friends of the Orphan School and St. John's Park Precinct

**Invite you to their end of year
event at St. John's Church,
St. John's Avenue, New Town
on
Thursday, 10 December 2009
at 5.30 pm**

**There will be a brief *Annual
General Meeting*
followed by
Carols in the Church
led by Joyce Purtscher and
organist David Featherstone**

Members' Supper

in the Sunday School

(Members please bring a plate
to share)

For more information please
contact 6228 2152.