

CULTURAL HERITAGE PRACTITIONERS TASMANIA—NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Derwent Valley Railway</i>	1
<i>Bulletin board</i>	2
<i>West Memorial Lecture</i>	3
<i>Drystone walling</i>	3
<i>Events calendar</i>	3
<i>The Old Umbrella Shop</i>	4
<i>Dooley's Track</i>	4
<i>Recherche Bay</i>	5
<i>Member profile</i>	5

Thanks to all contributors to this newsletter.... Please keep the articles, photos and information coming. Hoping to have an Autumn edition out in late April, and I need member support! Cheers... Brad

DERWENT VALLEY RAILWAY

IAN BOERSAMA TELLS THE CONTINUING SUCCESS STORY OF THE DERWENT VALLEY RAILWAY'S MOVES TO PRESERVE TASMANIA'S RAIL HERITAGE

The history of Tasmania's locomotive railways spans 137 years but in recent years has been a depressing tale of line closures, reduced operations and the possible shutting down of Tasmania's rail network. The ongoing importance of rail for freight and recreational passenger transport is recognised by government, however, and a rescue package of around \$80 million was provided by the Federal and State governments in 2007. This will allow a backlog of maintenance on the operating lines to be addressed, and ensure that Tasmania has a viable rail network for some years yet.

The gradual decline of the state railway system and consequent loss of historic rolling stock and railway infrastructure led to the formation of several railway preservation societies, notably the Don River Railway based near Devonport, the Derwent Valley Railway (DVR) based in New Norfolk, and the Tasmanian Transport Museum in Glenorchy. These institutions play an important role in conserving historic railway memorabilia, including operating locomotives and carriages, and maintain sections of railway.

The DVR suffered a major blow when in September 2005 the Derwent Valley Line west of New Norfolk was condemned and closed. Much of the group's income is derived from their running excursion trains up the line to National Park. This line is not used by Pacific National Tasmania (PNT), the only commercial freight carrier operating in Tasmania. The closure came at a time when PNT was considering pulling out of Tasmania unless the government provided a cash injection to address the condition of the state's rail system. Supporters of the DVR lobbied hard for government to include funding for the Derwent Valley Line in any rescue package that might be offered.

With its operations curtailed, the DVR adopted the line that it was "not gone... just resting", and did what it could to remain solvent and engaged in the business of restoring the eight locomotives, nine carriages and eleven wagons that it possesses.

It was heartening, then, to learn that on December 15 the group took delivery of an historic steam locomotive that had for the past 28 years been parked as an attention getting device at a strawberry farm in Tasmania's north. The heavy haulage locomotive, number H5, was one of eight of this class built for the Tasmanian Government Railways in 1951. It had an operational life of 20 years, after which it languished in the Launceston round house. When the state railways came under the ownership of the Australian National Railways (Tasmanian Region) in 1978, it was sold to Mr. Allen Focken of Hillwood Strawberry Farm.



Moving the H5 to its new home— Photo, Derwent Valley Railway

DERWENT VALLEY RAILWAY CONTINUED...

Railway preservation groups had from time to time made unsuccessful bids to purchase the locomotive. Recently, however, DVR learned that the owner was prepared to consider parting with H5, and funds were raised for the purchase and transportation of the locomotive. Four of the eight Tasmanian engines of this class survive. H1 is in the Tasmanian Transport Museum; H2 is in the DVR yard at New Norfolk, and is presently being overhauled (it was used to pull excursion trains until recently); H6 is in a park in Perth, but is missing its tender; and H7 is displayed in the yard of the Don River Railway, but has not been restored to an operational condition.

The acquisition of H5 is a positive indication of the optimism that DVR has for its future.



All aboard... the first move in 28 years—
Photo, Derwent Valley Railway

**Sacrificial members
needed for contribution
to the newsletter.....**

**If you can provide stories,
photos or just snippets of information that
you'd like shared—
please email
chptas@yahoo.com.au**

BULLETIN BOARD

Tasmanian Community Fund Round 17 Now Open

See—www.tascomfund.org

**Members—please submit any items you
would like advertised here in future editions.....**

National Trust Australia

The National Trust is asking Tasmanians to nominate heritage buildings most at risk as part of its Our Heritage @ Risk program. Nominations will be accepted until 31 March 2008. The 10 most at risk places will be announced on World Heritage Day 18 April. For further information visit the Trust's website at <http://www.nationaltrusttas.org.au>

**Glenorchy City Council and Southern Midlands Council, in conjunction
with Heritage Tasmania present...**

Leisure and pleasure – the historic inns of the Heritage Highway (as part of the National Trust Heritage Festival 2008)

Saturday 12th April: 8.30 am to 6.30 pm

Join local historians on a journey through the history of some of Tasmania's most historic inns. We start in Hobart with a tour of the historic Cascade Brewery, and weave our way (by bus) through the historic watering holes of Hobart, the Southern Midlands and the Coal River Valley. We end our day at a mystery location, then return to our starting point for a cleansing ale or refreshing cup of tea.

Cost to be advised (dependant on numbers, to cover bus hire)

Bookings and further details: Brad Williams bwilliams@gcc.tas.gov.au or
0418303184



Blacksake Inn, Granton— Photo,
Glenorchy City Council

Wiser after the event

Lessons learned from organising a community heritage event.... Mrs Eleanor Bjorksten, Oatlands.

In October 2006 the Dry Stone Walling Association of Australia meeting in Oatlands inspired me to link together some of my interests and to organise a "Week of Walling" for Tasmania. I could instantly see a need for formal qualifications for dry stone wallers working in the State.

The original Week of Walling was 6 days long. The final version was for 5 days, not really a week, but the name stayed. The program was designed to make maximum use of DSWAA member Geoff Duggan, Australia's only Master Craftsman qualified dry stone waller, and his time in Tasmania. Therefore the proposal included a dry stone sculpture, a 2 day workshop on how to build dry stone walls and an accreditation session for experienced wallers.

Geoff is employed by the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens Trust and is charged out by his employers on a daily rate. As fees charged to participants in the Week of Walling in Tasmania could not be expected to cover these costs, ways of finding sponsorship/subsidies had to be found. Many and varied were the sources.

Heritage Tasmania and the local Council (Southern Midlands) helped by subsidising the 2 day workshop and the accreditation session. Both groups felt some empathy for the program since Geoff's and DSWAA's agenda includes the preservation of old walls and walling skills.

The Friends of the Parterre paid for 2 of Geoff's days. For years the Oatlands Parterre Garden had wanted a sculpture to grace the circular stone base sitting in the centre of the pattern of garden beds. The chance of employing Geoff to construct a dry stone sculpture was too tempting to miss.

With a tight budget and uncertainty regarding numbers of participants two further steps to secure funding were undertaken:

- DSWAA member Steve Cronin from Exeter helped (twice) to seek corporate assistance. This strategy was not successful.
- DSWAA executive members voted to cover any shortfall in the budget up to the value of \$400.

The 2 day workshop was based in Deloraine where DSWAA members Andrew Garner and Robert Wilson live and work. The workshop was delivered through Adult Ed. This arrangement meant all fee-collecting, bookings and advertising were handled by Adult Ed. However this idea produced my first big mistake. Instead of using Adult Ed's public liability insurance and, therefore, increasing the cost of the workshop for participants, I assumed that between Heritage Tasmania, DSWAA and the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens there would be appropriate public liability insurance cover and therefore Adult Ed insurance would not be needed. This assumption led to much heartburn. A week before the event the public liability insurance issue was not resolved as the farmer on whose land the workshop wall was to be built was not covered to Adult Ed's satisfaction.

Everyone was in a panic and the whole twelve months of preparation was under the threat of cancellation. To the rescue came Wildcare Tasmania! The problem was solved painlessly overnight. The laid-back super-efficiency of this organization cannot be described adequately. Wildcare is also now handling all the paper work to do with the Week of Walling. Pure magic.

Another mistake (or set-back) was the paucity of media exposure. This was not brought about through lack of trying, but may have been due to the timing – one week before the election and mid-November when so many events happen in Tasmania.

However, Tasmania now has 3 accredited wallers (Level 1), 14 new enthusiastic dry stone wall builders, 50 people who have met Geoff Duggan and heard and seen his passion for his craft, a new Heritagecare group called Dry Stone Walls Preservation Group (www.wildcaretas.org.au) and one Australian Master Craftsman who envies Tasmanian farmers because of all the loose stones in evidence in their paddocks.

What a week!

What a wonderful, wonderful week.

20th The Examiner-John West Memorial Lecture

Friday 14 March – 8.00pm in the Lecture Theatre, Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania, Launceston. **Professor Henry Reynolds** will present this year's lecture.

Henry Reynolds was born in Tasmania, educated at the Hobart High School and the University of Tasmania. He worked for 30 years in Townsville at James Cook University and is currently an Australian Research Council Senior Fellow at the University of Tasmania in Launceston. His primary research interest has been the history of Aboriginal-white relations in Australia. His publications include *Aborigines and Settlers*, *The Other Side of the Frontier*, *The Law of the Land*, *Dispossession*, *With the White People*, *Why Weren't We Told?* and *An Indelible Stain?* It is timely after 20 years for Professor Reynolds to revisit this audience, coinciding with the Prime Minister's apology to re-examine indigenous and white relations in Australia. The lecture also coincides with the forthcoming publication: *Drawing the Global Colour Line*, *White Men's Countries and the International Challenge of Racial Equality* co-authored with Professor Marilyn Lake, another previous John West Lecturer.

For further information, please contact Marita Bardenhagen— 6334 4490 or mbardenh@bigpond.net.au

CULTURAL SNIPPETS...

MEMBERS SHARING THEIR STORIES...

National Trust: Old Umbrella Shop receives grant

Kim Simpson

Collection management work has begun in earnest at the National Trust's Old Umbrella Shop in Launceston. A Small Museums grant has facilitated registration and digitisation of the historic shop collection over the summer months. Owned and operated by three generations of the Shott family, the Old Umbrella Shop is arguably Tasmania's most significant intact shop interior, with its distinct Tasmanian blackwood fittings and scenic tromp l'oeils.

The collection will be registered and photographed in preparation for uploading on to the National Trust website. Comprising largely umbrellas - some made and repaired by the Shotts - the project also aims to highlight the significant blackwood souvenirs produced later in the shop's history and purchased by many Tasmanians as birthday, engagement and wedding gifts.

The Old Umbrella Shop is now the flagship retail outlet for the National Trust. Up until recently the collection associated with the building and Shott family had often been considered a sideline to commercial operations. It is hoped increased physical and intellectual access to the collection via the web will encourage greater understanding of the important role the Shott family business played in Tasmanian life.

See www.nationaltrusttas.org.au for links to the collection.



An early advertisement for Shott's Umbrella Shop
(Photo—Kim Simpson)

Fabric of Historic Trails Still Intact

Jane Becker

James Dooley was a remarkable man who during his time as a Government Surveyor did much to open up vast tracts of land in the North - West of Tasmania.

During the mid 19th century, prospectors were following alluvial gold upstream in the Wilmot River in search of the "mother load" and a pack trail needed to be established to service mining interests on Black Bluff and through to Gadds Hill and beyond. So it was that James Dooley surveyed and built a trail to link the township of Forth with the Middlesex Plains. Some of this pack horse route has been lost to landslip on the unstable slopes of the Wilmot valley, however much remains with clearly visible signs of the hand-benched trail complete with blazed trees to mark the route.

The Wilmot Heritage Trails Group and Forestry Tasmania have reopened the historic trail from the Alma Bridge through to Castra and intend to have a walking track that follows much of Dooley's original trail through to Smith's Plains and over the shoulder of Black Bluff to the Middlesex Plains. The project has involved a broad range of community members, conservation volunteers and Greencorps teams and has done a lot to highlight the importance of historic heritage in State forest. The legacy of James Dooley's trail can be seen in both the physical evidence associated with cutting out the original track and in the associated land management practices such as burning areas of rich river flats to provide grazing for the teams of pack horses that made the perilous journey laden with provisions. The route was originally carved out over the winter months bearing testimony to the hardiness and determination of these pioneers.

Dooleys Track offers a unique experience with an opportunity to walk in the steps of these pioneers who tackled what must have been dense and forbidding forest. The low elevation trail wanders through mixed wet forest alongside the Wilmot River with access to swimming and fishing spots along the way. An alternative trail on the eastern bank has been established to allow for a loop walk through more open dry forest on the return journey. Interpretation of both the history and ecology of the area will be produced in conjunction with the establishment of picnic and other recreational facilities.

For further information contact Jane Becker 6424 8388 or jane.becker@forestrytas.com.au

CHPT

Cultural Heritage Practitioners
Tasmania
PO Box 338
NORTH HOBART
TASMANIA 7002

Phone: 0418 303184 (Brad Williams)
Email: chptas@yahoo.com.au

**Does anyone want
to build a website?..**

Caring for Tasmania's Heritage

WHO ARE WE?

Established in 1997, Cultural Heritage Practitioners Tasmania (CHPT) is a non-profit group, comprising of heritage practitioners from a range of disciplines, including:

- Architecture
- Archaeology
- Cultural landscapes
- History
- Interpretation
- Museums/archives
- Planning

Among our core activities are the identification of heritage issues within Tasmania and lobbying for the recognition and protection of Tasmania's historic cultural heritage.

We are also an information network, sharing news and events which contribute to the knowledge and appreciation of Tasmania's historic cultural heritage.

For general enquiries, prospective membership, or to raise an issue for consideration, please email the Coordinators—Brad Williams, Allison Ryland and Anthony Bagshaw at:

chptas@yahoo.com.au

STOP PRESS.....

The Final Report of the "Recherche Bay d'Entrecasteau visit in 1792 and 1793. A Tasmanian-French Collaboration Archaeological Project (2006)" by Jean-Christophe Galipaud, Antoine de Biran, Helene Richard, Greg Jackman, Anna Gurnhill, Angela McGowan, Rufino Pineda and Leigh Maynard. December 2007 was released in late December.

A PDF is available from the Heritage Tasmania website: www.heritage.tas.gov.au



Rosalie—Looking for heritage in high places....!

Profile: Rosalie Kelly

Still relatively new to Tasmania, I moved to Launceston over 12 months ago.

At university I completed a Bachelor of Arts/Humanities degree studying anthropology and archaeology as well as post graduate study in archaeology and museum studies.

I worked at Museum Victoria in different roles within the Indigenous Cultures department as relocation officer, assistant collections manager and registration officer. During this time I catalogued ethnographic manuscript and photographic material from various collections including Donald Thomson, George Augustus Robinson and Sir Walter Baldwin Spencer.

Other experiences have included time as Assistant Registrar at the Point Cook RAAF museum as well as the National Gallery of Victoria where I worked as the Locations Controller during a major relocation to the re-developed St Kilda Road site.

My interests include Australian history, exploring, bushwalking, cycling and long distance running.

Last year I was granted a research fellowship with the State Library of Tasmania to work on a collection of books from the Launceston Library, containing Tasmanian historically notable signatures. They will be displayed in about a month's time. More recently, I have been working at Heritage Tasmania as a research officer.

It has been a great experience moving to Tasmania as I explore the state most weekends. I am a member of the Launceston Historical Society and Cultural Heritage Practitioners, which provides me with an opportunity to meet a range of people and continue to grow and share my knowledge of Tasmanian history.