TASMANIA
ISLAND OF TREASURES
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Although on a global scale Tasmania is a relatively large island it has a sense of compactness; drive for half an hour and the landscape will be very different, so too the built heritage. We are fortunate that the state has escaped the worst of the inappropriate development we frequently see and for that reason the sense of connection to the past is more immediate than that of most of Australia. We have half of Australia’s heritage buildings here and many historical artefacts remain where they should be – in this state. We are fortunate too that, perhaps just in time, historians both amateur and professional have realised the significance of our links to the past and began preserving, cataloguing and displaying the vast and fascinating array of objects that have survived.

This book arose from my work as a museum consultant: visiting, advising and training volunteers throughout Tasmania to set up and run community museums and history groups. I decided it was time to highlight all the wonderful collections held around the island and to acknowledge the hard work of those striving to maintain our heritage. In particular I wish to recognise the volunteers who have given so freely of their time in so many organisations.

The texts and most of the images were largely provided by each organisation. The organisations featured range from the smallest history room run by one volunteer to the largest museums.

I wish to thank Professor Pam Sharpe of the University of Tasmania School of Classics and History and Dr Natasha Cica for their belief in my aim to network all of the history groups and museums in Tasmania.

I also wish to acknowledge the support of the Tasmanian Community Fund, without which the three-year project of supporting all volunteers in history groups and in the museum sector would not have been possible. The project enabled me from 2009 to 2012 to spend four to six days with each group, at no cost to the participants, providing whatever assistance was most useful to them. This included cataloguing resources, managing collections to accepted museum standards, providing professional documentation, designing education programs, providing interpretation, producing three-year strategic plans, podcasting history programs and working with the museum community in seeking ideas to engage the wider community.

My appreciation I would also like to extend to Warren Boyles and Kent Whitmore of 40°South, and graphic designers Beverly Waldie and Kellie Strachan for their unfailing patience and meticulous attention to detail in the production of this book. Thank you as well to librarian and author Barbara Hamilton-Arnold for sharing her skills as an indexer.

Lastly I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers willing to take on board new skills and for working co-operatively for the future of this vital part of our cultural heritage.

Sue Atkinson

Scan this code to access regular updates and events happening at the museums and history groups in Tasmania.

http://tasmanianhistorygroups.edublogs.org/
MINISTER’S FOREWORD

**Tasmania’s museums** and the treasure trove of wonderful items their collections contain have inspired generations of Tasmanians.

The significance of the State Collection cannot be underestimated and its value to us all is beyond measure.

TMAG has the broadest collection mandate of any single similar institution in Australia. It achieves this by collecting and conserving material evidence of Tasmania’s cultural heritage and biodiversity with a focus on collecting historical, scientific and artistic items.

Regional communities also have access to stunning collections in a number of museums and galleries across the state, supported by roving curators who provide expert support and knowledge to even the smallest of exhibitors.

And with the recent high profile addition of MONA, our collection of museums is now making a serious impression interstate and overseas, with new visitors discovering the wealth of exhibits on show in Tasmania.

And it is some of those exhibits that are featured in this wonderful publication.

During the last eight years Sue Atkinson has been a dedicated and committed advocate for Tasmania’s small museums and collections sector, gaining first-hand knowledge of the collections held within museums across the state.

This book is the result of that dedication, which highlights not only the exhibits but also enormous contributions made by the volunteers who care for our state’s collections.

Without these individuals, much of this heritage would be lost, or at the very least not on public display for us all to enjoy.

I hope this work inspires you to visit not only our larger cultural institutions such as the Port Arthur Historic site or the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery but also some of the smaller but equally important museums throughout Tasmania.

Collectively they inform us about what made us the state we are today, as well as guiding us as we move forward and continue to grow and define our culture.

Lara Giddings MP
Premier
Minister for the Arts
CENTRAL TASMANIA / THE MIDLANDS
The Australasian Golf Museum, located in Bothwell village, records how the game evolved from a crude contest played by a handful of villagers on Scotland’s east coast to international prominence. It has become Australia’s most popular participation sport.

The museum shows how early settlers in historical Bothwell became Australia’s first golfing community. The nearby Ratho Golf Links are recognised as Australia’s oldest golf course.

The evolution of the game is explained through the different eras and defined by changes in the make-up of the golf ball: from the ‘feathery’ (1400s to mid-1800s) to gutta-percha (1850s to 1900) to Haskell (turn of the twentieth century to World War II) and lastly, the familiar, modern, dimpled ball.

Many of Tasmania’s champion golfers are celebrated and include Australia’s earliest champions, the Pearce Brothers, to Lucy Arthur, Len Nettlefold, Elvie Whitesides, the Toogoods and the Goggins.
Bothwell is one of Tasmania’s earliest rural settlements. The Bothwell Historical Society is one of the oldest in Tasmania, having been established in the late 1870s with encouragement from the local municipal authority. (A conservation study of the area was also carried out at the same time.)

The society has collected various items of local interest over the years and has a large collection of local family histories. Its most important role is that of custodian of the books from the Bothwell Literary Society, which was established in 1834. These books are owned by the municipality but kept in the society’s rooms in the old headmasters house (1887).

In 1988 the Bothwell Tapestries were produced as a bicentennial community project. Small canvas squares and wool were distributed throughout the community with a request that participants produce something relating to the area’s history – past or present. The youngest participant was aged five and the oldest, ninety. In all 207 were completed and stitched into three panels. The first and third panels each contain sixty-three squares and measure 1.4 x 1.07 metres. The central panel has eighty-one squares and is 1.37 metres square.

The society meets at intervals and also conducts popular excursions.

The Bothwell Literary Society, founded by the Rev. James Garrett, first met in June 1834 as a debating society. The first topic for debate was: ‘Whether is knowledge conducive to human happiness’ [sic]. Subsequently a library was formed and lectures were held during the winter months. Members included Phineas Moss, the police clerk; Dr Edward Swarbreck Hall; and Hugh Munro Hull. In 1852 Irish political exile John Mitchel wrote, ‘Bothwell has a very tolerable public library, such library as no village of similar population in Ireland had’.

By the century’s end interest had waned, lectures ceased and the books were out-dated. In 1892 the MLC for Derwent, Walter Gellibrand, donated eighty-one books – the society’s last major acquisition. Many of the library’s original records can still be viewed and some of the original collection remains.

One of the books held in the library, dated 1734, was published by Richard Hett at the Bible and Crown, London. The book, entitled Forty Six Practical Sermons, is more than 400 pages long.
Pontville and Brighton are two of the earliest European settlements beyond Hobart. Both villages were established by the 1830s. Pontville (‘Bridgetown’ in French) is on the banks of the Jordan River and has a number of heritage-listed Georgian homes as well as St Mark’s Anglican Church, built in 1841.

Formed in the 1990s, the Brighton Heritage Association began establishing a museum of local artefacts, memorabilia and photographs in the Old Council Chambers at Pontville. The association has sought to promote the appreciation of its local heritage by introducing interpretation panels around the village of Pontville.

Maintenance of the museum and the Congregational church cemetery as well as local heritage walks are some of the activities carried out by the Brighton Heritage Association. It encourages locals and visitors to become involved in appreciation of the area’s heritage through various events for which it gratefully acknowledges the continuing support of the Brighton Council.

Clockwise from top left: A replica of leg irons similar to those used in the Pontville Watch House, c. 1831

An army service button, a police badge (1837–1901) and shoulder strap badge from the 12th Australian Infantry Regiment (1903–12). Items such as these were used and made by the blacksmith in Pontville.

INFORMATION
address: Old Council Chambers, Midlands Highway, Pontville
postal: 6 Glebe Street, Pontville 7030
tel: (03) 6268 1241
e-mail: brightonheritage@bigpond.com
open: museum opening times vary throughout the year, please refer to the website for further details
www.brightonheritage.org.au

Photographs: A. Marks
Chauncy Vale House: Day Dawn

Chauncy Vale is located 40 km north of Hobart and four kilometres east of the township of Bagdad. It is at the top end of a narrow valley running east-west between the Midland Highway and the Coal River Valley.

The Chauncy Vale family home, Day Dawn, was built between 1916 and 1918. It was originally a three-roomed single-storey cottage with an open north-facing veranda, an enclosed side veranda on the east and a lean-to kitchen and scullery on the south side. The house was built for Nan Chauncy’s brother by her father and her twin brother Jan. Both were engineers, specialising in concrete construction. While he was away during World War I, Nan’s brother gave the house to Nan and her husband as a wedding present.

The three-roomed main block is constructed in slip-form concrete and the lean-to is weatherboard. The original shingle roof was covered with corrugated iron in the 1920s. The three original main rooms were reduced to two and are now panelled in Tasmanian oak to dado level. There is a sandstone fireplace and the windows are four-paned glass. The end of the open veranda was enclosed in 1946 with vertical boards to extend the east end sleep-out. The kitchen/scullery was rebuilt in two stages in the 1950s. The first stage was the kitchen/dining room with a convict brick double chimney and weatherboards of Baltic pine. The second stage – laundry, bathroom and bedroom – was built from concrete blocks and bagged to match the original building.

The furniture in the cottage was used by the Chauncys in the 1950s. It includes Nan’s typewriter and the desk at which she wrote her books. Hurricane and Aladdin lamps provided lighting, with candles for emergencies.

The Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary, of which Day Dawn is a part, is the oldest private conservation area in the state and is open daily except for days of total fire ban in the 62 phone area. The Friends of Chauncy Vale Inc. raise funds and organise events for the sanctuary. These funds also assist with the upkeep of the cottage.

INFORMATION

address: Bagdad 7030
tel: (03) 6268 6365
open: Day Dawn is open on the first Saturday of each month 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm; group bookings at other times by appointment
admission: charges apply
www.chauncyvale.com.au

Photographs: Sue Atkinson
In the 1840s and 1850s the Jerusalem Probation Station housed as many as 600 convicts. Some of the buildings, including the hospital, the courthouse and the commandants residence, still stand and are now private dwellings. The district was first known as Jerusalem Plains; the township became Colebrook in 1894.

The Colebrook History Room can provide information about this fascinating period of Tasmania’s history with photographs, plans and a 3D scale model of the original complex. It also houses the Colebrook state school register from 1917, which gives interesting insights into rural life with its detailed information about students and their parents.

Possibly the most treasured piece is an invoice book dated 1820 from the Lion Inn. The entries provide valuable research material.

The history room itself is built from the stone of the earliest farmhouse, Colebrook Park, c. 1822, which was demolished to make way for the Craigbourne Dam in 1986. Many items from Colebrook Park are to be found in the room, including the front door with its brass knocker.

In addition there are records of many of the original and long-established families of the town.
HAMILTON HERITAGE CENTRE

This small museum – and archives – in the former warden’s building next to the council chambers tell the stories of the town’s lively past. The collection consists of family documents, photographs and interesting local objects. A collection on display at the centre features Matron Elizabeth Orr who worked in South Africa during World War I.

(The museum is accessible through the adjacent council chambers.)
The Heritage Highway Museum and Visitor Information Centre is located in the centre of Campbell Town in the former courthouse. Built in 1905, the building was used for its original purpose until c. 2009. After this time the building served as the police station, a library, the council chambers, a solicitor’s office and an opportunity shop.

Visitors are encouraged to sit in the judge’s chair and pass sentence on one Nell Pratt, a local identity, who was infamous for being drunk and disorderly. Or they can sentence the notorious bushranger, Martin Cash, whose ‘career’ was interrupted while he worked on the Red Bridge as a member of a convict work gang.

The Saxon company began production in Campbell Town in 1982 and was a well-known Tasmanian business during the latter part of the twentieth century. In 2001 the very last Saxon wood heater was manufactured – this is on display.

Established in 1838, the Midlands Agricultural Association holds its annual show at Campbell Town. This is the oldest show in the Southern Hemisphere and has been held every year since its inception. The museum has an extensive collection of memorabilia celebrating this event.

Some famous former residents include Harold Gatty, a pioneering aircraft-navigator who flew around the world with Wiley Post in the Winnie Mae, the first to ever do so; Frank Long, discoverer of Zeehan’s mineral wealth; Alfred Biggs, the local schoolmaster who recorded the first telephone call message in the Southern Hemisphere; champion Australian Rules footballer Brent Crosswell; and Dr William Valentine, who built The Grange in the late 1840s – site of one of the 1874 sightings of the transit of Venus. (American astronomers were invited to view the transit from this site.)
The Southern Midlands Council holds a large collection of heritage items — objects, photographs and ephemera from throughout the region. The council funds an ongoing archaeological program that has produced a collection of thousands of archaeological artefacts relating to everyday life in colonial Oatlands — a collection that is increasing as the program continues.

The council owns and manages heritage sites such as the Callington Mill, the Oatlands Gaol, the Supreme Court House, the Commissariat and the Green Ponds Watch House. The mill is open daily and the gaol and the supreme court house (with a museum, and performance and exhibition spaces) are also open to the public. (Opening times may vary and may depend on the availability of volunteers. Information can be supplied by phoning the number provided).

The items pictured come from under the gaoler’s bedroom at the Oatlands gaoler’s residence (1837). Owing to the haste of the original construction, green timber was used in the internal fit-out of this building. Over time its floorboards shrunk, gaps formed between the boards and during 100 years of use, many personal items were lost. When restoration was undertaken in 2010 about 2000 items were found that form the basis of this collection. It allows a glimpse into the domestic lives of the gaolers and their families.

In early 2013 the restored gaoler’s residence will be open to the public, and this will be the focus of a state-of-the-art interpretation of the Oatlands Gaol that will allow insights into the lives of those living in the gaol complex – both free and imprisoned. A Pepper’s ghost (a device that gives the illusion of a hologram) will be installed in the building, which will tell the story of the gaol through the eyes of the gaoler’s family.

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INFORMATION
address: 77 High Street, Oatlands 7120
tel: (03) 6254 1212
e-mail: tourism@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
open: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm daily
admission: charges apply to heritage sites

Photographs: Sue Atkinson
OATLANDS DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The inaugural meeting of the Oatlands District Historical Society was held in the Court Room on 29 October 1996. The Society is a not for profit community organisation staffed and managed by volunteers who aim to preserve, record, interpret and to stimulate an interest in the history and heritage of the Oatlands District.

The Society moved into its present ‘home’ in what was once Ferdie Turner’s Motor Garage in 2003. The History Room has become an increasingly popular attraction for visitors. The society is currently developing a readily accessible database.

The majority of funds are raised through publication sales, entry to the History Room Museum and from guided tours by the society of the district and of the township of Oatlands. (Morning and afternoon teas and luncheons are also available).

The restoration of the Callington Mill has seen an increased demand for these tours and also requests for information for family and building history research.

It has been through the dedication of members in volunteering their services over a wide and varied range of activities, which has enabled the society to continue to grow in strength. Since its founding the society has produced numerous publications relating to both the built and social heritage, one such publication being six editions of our chronicle.

As the Society’s profile has risen, so has the recognition that heritage items and memorabilia associated with the district, have been donated or loaned for display to the History Room.

The museum consists of five purpose-built modules displaying various aspects of early life in Oatlands. They are the Bootmaker’s Shop, the Tasmanian Tiger Room, the Village Store, the Children’s Nursery and the Convict Cell.

A recent addition is an early weatherboard cottage placed on the site that once restored, will become another exciting display. The Society holds monthly general meetings and new members are most welcome.
Situated in the heart of Tasmania’s wool-growing region, the Tasmanian Wool Centre was established in 1988 to promote the advantages of wool and the heritage features of the beautiful village of Ross. The centre has a retail area that stocks a large range of quality woollen garments and accessories. Profits from sales enable donations to be made to heritage restoration projects and community groups. At the time of writing this funding has exceeded $150,000.

At the rear of the retail space are the heritage and wool exhibition areas, which can be entered by donation. The heritage area displays photographs that document the development of Ross. This space is also used for exhibitions.

The wool exhibition area provides information about and displays of various sheep breeds, and gives visitors the opportunity to handle the raw product, complete with lanolin and its characteristic smell! There are a number of artefacts and a replica of a small shearing shed that give visitors an insight into the wool industry.

The Ross Bridge is an iconic Tasmanian feature; images of the bridge are given pride of place in the museum. Also featured is Horton College – a Wesleyan school for boys that catered for boarders from the district and the mainland from 1850 to 1898. All that remains is the portico, familiar to travellers on the Heritage Highway as the archway on the roadside near Somercotes.

The Ross Female Factory Site is of national importance. (A number of female factories were built in Van Diemen’s Land.) Some of the archaeological finds are on display, together with information about its history.

INFORMATION
address: 48 Church Street, Ross 7209
tel: (03) 6381 5466
e-mail: taswoolcentre@bigpond.com
open: every day except Good Friday and Christmas Day; trading hours vary from season to season;
please phone before visiting
www.taswoolcentre.com.au
WADDAMANA POWER STATION MUSEUM

**Waddamana is the site of Hydro Tasmania’s first hydro-electric power station.** In 1914 the Hydro-Electric Department was established to take over construction of the partially completed project. Power generation commenced in 1916.

The Waddamana A and Shannon Power Stations operated until 1964, when they were decommissioned. Waddamana B continued until 1994. The water from the Great Lake was then required for the new Poatina Power Station at the northern end of the lake. In that year Waddamana was ‘retired’ and now has a new life as a museum that retains almost all of the original plant and equipment and features other displays that illustrate the importance of hydro-electricity to the development of Tasmania.

You can visit Waddamana A power station today in its new life as a museum. It has been open since 1988.

At the museum you can see:
- Faithfully restored original machinery, most in original locations within the station
- Equipment from the old Shannon Power Station, penstocks and pipelines
- Historical photographs
- Appliances and artefacts from the historic Waddamana village giving an idea of what life would have been like in the early 1900s
- Interactive displays showing how a water turbine works and what makes hydropower renewable.

**INFORMATION**

address: Waddamana 7030
tel: (03) 6259 6158
open: 10.00 am – 4.00 pm daily, except Christmas Day and Good Friday

Clockwise from above: A name plate on one of the generating units; one of the valve switches in the station

The design of fans has not changed since the early 1900s – an original Waddamana fan pictured; the store of historical tools at the museum

The Waddamana Power Station Museum entrance

Facing page: A refurbished turbine (Pelton wheel) and alternator

Photographs: Courtesy of Pat Garnham and Hydro Tasmania
THE WOODSDALE MUSEUM

In 2004 the Levendale and Woodsdale History Rooms Inc. was formed with the aim of recording the history of and preserving the artefacts from the surrounding areas. A lease was secured on the Woodsdale School building. (The school was opened in 1884 and closed in 1965 and had remained vacant.)

A government grant and the enthusiasm and hard work of the members of the group enabled the refurbishment of the building to begin. The response from the community was most encouraging and members assumed responsibility for cataloguing, sorting and placing items relating to the early settlement of the districts.

To accommodate an ever-expanding collection, and again with the help of a government grant, two large new sheds were added – one for a shearing interpretation area and the other housing old farm implements and machinery. (The latter also doubles as the local Men’s Shed.)

The old classroom is used as a display area for changing exhibitions and special events. The attached teachers residence is furnished to reflect the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with furniture and other heritage items that have been donated or are on loan from local families.

Other activities include catering for bus tours and hosting school groups for a day of fun to provide insight into ‘the old days’. A ‘Back to Woodsdale Day’ is held on the long weekend in March each year.

INFORMATION
address: 2278 Woodsdale Road,
Woodsdale 7120
tel: (03) 6254 6171
open: every Sunday or by appointment
www.thewoodsdalemuseum.com/

Photographs: K. Mann
NORTHERN TASMANIA
**BASS AND FLINDERS CENTRE**

The Bass and Flinders Centre is housed in George Town’s former cinema and displays many artefacts relating to the maritime history of Tasmania. On display are the *Elizabeth*, a replica of the whaleboat in which, in 1815, Captain John Kelly sailed around Van Diemen’s Land, as well as the *KD*, a beautiful old clinker-built vessel. The Upper Gunn Deck (named in memory of John Gunn) houses a beautifully rebuilt Tamar class dinghy, *Melanie*, a small yacht that many youngsters learnt to sail on the Tamar River. A number of delightful quilts can be seen, depicting ‘what Bass and Flinders may have seen’ on their 1798 arrival at Port Dalrymple.

The replica, *Norfolk*, can be viewed and boarded. Guided tours are available, which include comprehensive information about Bass and Flinders and, for example, Bern Cuthbertson’s 1998 Bicentenary Bass and Flinders re-enactment voyage.

*Informations address:* 8 Elizabeth Street, George Town 7253  
*Tel:* (03) 6382 3792  
*Open:* May to September daily 11.00 am – 3.00 pm, October to April daily 10.00 am – 4.00 pm  
[www.bassandflinders.org.au](http://www.bassandflinders.org.au)
BEACONSFIELD MINE AND HERITAGE CENTRE

The Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Centre is a place where visitors can view treasures from the past and embark on a historical journey. They can learn about the social, industrial and mining history of Beaconsfield and the Tamar Valley. Interaction with the displays is encouraged.

A replica cage and rock-fall exhibit presents the events of the dramatic 2006 mine rescue. A brand-new exhibit, ‘the 3D Tasmania Mine Holographic Experience’ shows how the present-day mine operated. The Heritage Centre houses and exhibits more than 10,000 artefacts in its collection.
Clarendon is an outstanding colonial farm complex with a residence that was established in 1817 by James Cox, son of William Cox (who built Clarendon at Richmond in New South Wales). The residence and outbuildings were built in the 1830s by James Cox and his second wife Eliza. During their lifetime Clarendon developed into a very large and successful grazing property. Its seven hectares include extensive gardens and parklands.

The architecture is distinctive, with a portico above a balustraded terrace – features that are unique in Australian domestic architecture. The residence was fully furnished by the Cox family predominantly with English and colonial pieces.

The National Trust as owners of Clarendon for the last three years has acquired significant period furniture. (An essential reference was an inventory and subsequent 1869 catalogue of sale from Eliza Cox’s estate.) There are many items that have been returned to the property through donation by families who lived at Clarendon. Other donors have also assisted the Trust.

The ladies sitting or morning room, for example, has a distemper wall colour matched to the original colour. This provides insights into the style of the interior and of the period itself. The window treatment of sprigged muslin made from mercerised cotton with a silk-like sheen and cotton knitted fringe is also authentic. A fitted Brussels carpet with a decorative border made especially for the room is similar to the original carpets of 1851 regarding pattern and type of textile. The original Cox upright Broadwood piano in this room adds to the authenticity of the collection and to its significance.

The Clarendon collection is extensive and within it there are many notable pieces of national and local significance.

Information

address: 234 Clarendon Station Road,
Nile via Evandale 7212

email: clarendon@nationaltrusttas.org.au

open: Monday to Saturday 10.00 am – 4.00 pm
Sundays 12.00 noon – 4.00 pm,
closed July and August, Good Friday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year’s Day

admission: charges apply

www.nationaltrusttas.org.au

Photographs: Courtesy of the National Trust of Australia (TAS)
ENTALLY ESTATE HISTORIC SITE

Founded in 1819 by Thomas Reibey II the property originally covered some 3000 acres but today consists of thirty-seven acres [fifteen hectares] of heritage parkland and English-style gardens.

With thirteen outbuildings surrounding the house, including stables and a loft, a chapel, a fine collection of horse-drawn carriages and Tasmania’s oldest glass conservatory, visitors are presented with a rare example of an early colonial farm homestead.

Located just outside the township of Hadspen and a short drive from Launceston Entally Estate and house can be seen from the main Meander Valley Road behind vines that produce fine Tasmanian pinot noir.

The house has been furnished in the Regency style and contains many original items belonging to the family, including a fine collection of silver plate, and family portraits. Visitors can wander through the rooms, the walled garden, chapel and farmyard. Entally is an important part of Tasmania’s pioneering history.

The site is managed by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service with support from the Friends of Entally volunteer group.
The Evandale History Society is a small group of volunteers that was founded in 1991 and aims to preserve items of local historical importance. These are stored and displayed in the facilities shared with the Evandale Community and Tourism Centre.

The society has been extensively involved in the collection, research and display of information, photographs and artefacts from the greater Evandale area including Nile, Deddington, Morven and Western Junction.

The society meets monthly at the Evandale Community and Tourism Centre.

Members were involved in the excavation of a convict-built tunnel, which was part of the Evandale to Launceston Water Scheme 1836–38. Artefacts were also found and preserved. A diorama was subsequently created about the water scheme at the Evandale Community and Information Centre.

They have also had a monument constructed and dedicated to the memory of Lieutenant-Colonel Harry Murray, VC, in Main Street, Evandale. In 2006 the statue was unveiled with all moneys raised by volunteers.

Documents, photographs, aircraft models and memorabilia relating to the No. 7 RAAF Elementary Flying Training School based at Western Junction [Launceston Airport] 1940–45 have been collected and displayed, and research undertaken. After the construction of the 7 EFTS War Memorial a formal dedication service was held in 2010 at Evandale Memorial Park.

Recent work has included updating cemetery records for Evandale, Nile and White Hills and collecting convict records, military histories etc.

INFORMATION

address: 18 High Street, Evandale 7212
tel: (03) 6391 8128 and leave message
e-mail: evandalehistory@tassie.net.au
open: daily May to September
10.00 am – 4.00 pm
October to April 9.00 am – 5.00 pm
www.evandaletasmania.com/
evandale-history-society.html

Photos: Courtesy of the Evandale History Society Inc.
FRANKLIN HOUSE – NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (TASMANIA)

Surrounded by beautiful and extensive gardens featuring 200-year-old oak trees, Franklin House is a fine late-Georgian house on the outskirts of Launceston. It was built in 1838 by former convict and local publican Britton Jones, who owned the Sir William Wallace Inn nearby. Designed as a family residence in the neo-Classical Greek Revival style, the house was built by convict labour, using bricks made from clay mined on the site. The house is known for its extensive use of western red cedar joinery and elegant portico with rare wooden Doric columns.

Between 1842 and 1866, the house accommodated the Classical and Commercial School, also known as Mr Hawkes’ Academy. This school became one of the colony’s leading private boarding schools, educating the sons of many well-known local families. The property includes the two-storey house, stables, a kitchen and a schoolroom. A small café uses produce from the large Victorian kitchen garden and orchard located at the rear of the property.

Franklin House has an interesting and unusual collection of furniture and decorative arts. The house contains fine English period furniture and a small number of colonial items. Art works, musical instruments, including a rare stirrup organ, exquisite clocks, fine bone china and embroidered textiles can be seen.

INFORMATION

address: 413 Hobart Road, Launceston 7250
tel: (03) 6344 7824
e-mail: franklin@nationaltrusttas.org.au
open: April to September Monday to Saturday 9.00 am – 4.00 pm, October to March 9.00 am – 5.00 pm, closed Good Friday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year’s Day
admission: charges apply
GEORGE TOWN WATCH HOUSE

The 1855 Watch House on the site of the original 1816 gaol was renovated as a 2004 Bicentenary project for the George Town Council. It is run by the George Town and District Historical Society Inc. with assistance from local volunteers.

The society uses the front room for its local and family history resources and a growing collection of local photographs, documents and other records. Visitors are welcome to use these resources and assistance is available if required.

Interpretative panels provide information about the George Town area prior to European settlement, its 1798 exploration by Bass and Flinders, and its place as the site of the first European occupation in northern Van Diemen’s Land by Lt-Col. William Paterson with about 200 convicts and soldiers. There is also information about George Town’s marine and industrial heritage.

A large scale model of early George Town shows its streets set out as planned in a grid pattern around the central Regent Square. The town was named in 1811 as the future headquarters of northern Van Diemen’s Land by Governor Lachlan Macquarie, and functioned as such from 1819 until 1825.

One room is dedicated to women’s stories, including those from the George Town Female Factory – or House of Correction – that served all of northern VDL from the early 1820s until a new factory was built in 1834 in Launceston. The ‘Departures and Arrivals’ installation is a memorial to the babies who died in these factories.

A small gallery displays touring exhibitions that are arranged by the local branch of Tasmanian Regional Arts.

INFORMATION
address: 84–86 Macquarie Street,
George Town 7253
tel: (03) 6382 4466
email: watchhouse@georgetown.tas.gov.au
info@gtdhs.com
open: daily 10.00 am – 4.00 pm,
closing at 3.00 pm during winter,
weekends 12 noon – 2.00 pm,
closed Good Friday, Easter Sunday,
Christmas Day, Boxing Day

Photographs: Courtesy of the George Town and District Historical Society
To mark the centenary of Launceston being declared a city, the Launceston Historical Society was established on 25 October 1988.

The aim of the society is to bring together people with an interest in history. (It does not have a collection of objects or photographs, nor does it undertake family or local history research.)

Guest speakers address the society each month on topics of local historical interest. In March *The Examiner*-John West Memorial Lecture is held in the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre at the University of Tasmania, Newnham. It commemorates the establishment of *The Examiner* newspaper in 1842 and one of its founders, the Reverend John West, who was an Independent minister and anti-transportation campaigner.

*Papers and Proceedings* (published from 1989 to 2011) include the John West Lectures and papers from the annual symposium and seminars.

The LHS Archaeology Group meets every second month. The group undertakes excavations and records artefacts at historical sites in the Launceston area.

Excursions to places of interest are held during the year.

An annual history prize competition for primary and high school students is conducted to foster young people’s interest in history. And an annual prize is awarded to a first-year history student at the University of Tasmania, Launceston Campus.
In 1992 Marcus Hall acquired the shell of the former Launceston Tram No. 29 with the goal of restoring it to its original condition. The derelict tram was transported to Inveresk, Launceston, and a group of like-minded enthusiasts started work on the project.

Over a period of nine years Tram 29 was gradually restored. The group became the Launceston Tramway Museum Society Inc. and proceeded to acquire and rebuild other former Launceston trams and construct a shelter shed. The society’s main objective is to preserve the heritage and history of the Launceston Municipal Tramways which operated public transport in Launceston from 1911 to 1955.

The opening in 2006 of a new display gallery beside the restoration workshop has enabled the museum to develop a range of visitor attractions: from 1911 movie footage to a ‘chook shed’ tram and large-screen audio-visual displays. Visitors are now able to take tram rides with soundscapes in Tram 29, the last of Launceston’s trams. Launceston’s first tram, No. 1, will shortly be added to the collection. It was one of the highlights of centenary celebrations in 2011.
The Longford RSL Museum, part of the RSL Memorial Club, contains a wide variety of memorabilia relating to service people in the area. Especially highlighted is the story of Mary Ransom who was a nurse during World War II.

She lived in Longford and never married. She undertook full-time war service in the Citizens’ Military Forces and the Australian Imperial Force and was made a lieutenant.

In the museum’s collection is a large scrapbook with photographs and newspaper cuttings from 1941 to 1951.
Between the beaches at the mouth of the Tamar River is Australia's oldest pilot station, established in 1806. It can be found in the seaside village of Low Head five kilometres north of George Town. The pilot station is a large complex with buildings dating back to 1835. They include pilot accommodation, boat crew cottages and a former school. It is the largest pilot station complex in the country.

The museum is operated by the Low Head Pilot Station Support Group, a not-for-profit group of volunteers. It was established by the boat crew at the station. They built up a large collection of maritime artefacts from the days of sail and steam. It is housed in the 1835 Pilot Row, originally built to accommodate the pilots.

Many stories are told in the museum. There is the story of the Launceston whalers who braved the storms of Bass Strait to chase whales off the coast of Victoria and Kangaroo Island. Another is of the Eden Holme, the last wool clipper to sail from Launceston, which was wrecked in 1907 on the dangerous Hebe Reef. Read too of Kathleen Cashion, who signalled to all ships sailing up and down the Tamar River during World War II.

Children are welcome to play with the objects on display and guided tours are available for bus and school groups. On Sundays at noon, the lighthouse’s fog horn can be heard. At the pilot station is a coffee shop, together with tourist accommodation in the station cottages.
The National Automobile Museum of Tasmania has been the state’s home of veteran, vintage and classic cars and motorcycles for the past fifteen years. The museum is operated by a non-profit foundation as a community project, entirely funded by admission fees, retail shop sales and donations. It is located in Launceston, opposite the City Park.

The main aim of the museum is to display significant examples of vehicles from the past 100 years of motoring, in an area with more than 100 exhibits. The collection is made up of vehicles primarily on loan and displays change regularly. There is also a separate floor that is used for special displays. ‘Born in the USA’ will be featured from October to December 2012, for example.

A nationally renowned collection of more than forty-five motorcycles features Norton, BSA, AJS, Triumph, Velocette, Matchless, Indian, Harley-Davidson, BMW, Adler, Ducati, Suzuki, Honda, Kawasaki and others.
THE NORFOLK PLAINS HERITAGE CENTRE AND LAKE MASONIC LODGE

The Norfolk Plains Heritage Centre consists of three rooms, one of which is used as a masonic lodge. The centre was built in 1929 and is located in Longford near the historic Christ Church. The heritage centre has an exhibition space and archival resources that draw on the significant collections of the Norfolk Plains Group of the National Trust and provide information about the towns, people and industries of the Norfolk Plains district. The history group was formed in the late 1970s and holds monthly meetings.

One of the more interesting exhibits is the 1930s replica Strasbourg clock. The first Strasbourg astronomical clock was built between 1352 and 1354. When a copy of the Strasbourg clock was displayed throughout the state in the 1930s, a Longford man was inspired to build this replica. It has an automatic mechanism showing the time, day, month, year, and where the moon, sun and planets are located in the sky. The clock is known for its ‘automata’, the main attraction being the ‘Procession of the Apostles’, which occurs every day at 12.30 pm.
OLD UMBRELLA SHOP
NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (TASMANIA)

The 1860 Old Umbrella Shop is one of the last-surviving, largely intact, early-twentieth-century shops in Tasmania. It shows how different shops were at that time. R. Shott & Son made and repaired umbrellas and in later years produced wooden souvenirs on the premises. Operated by three generations of the Shott family the shop now houses displays about the family. The shop is also well known for its large range of umbrellas and souvenirs. It stocks a variety of National Trust and Tasmanian products.

The National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) acquired the shop in 1978 after seventy years of operation by the Shott family.

INFORMATION
address: 60 George Street,
Launceston 7250
tel/fax: (03) 6331 9248
gmail: info@nationaltrusttas.org.au
open: Mondays to Fridays
9.00 am – 5.00 pm,
Saturdays: 9.00 am – 12.00 noon
disability access to shop area
PEARN’S STEAM WORLD

Pearn’s Steam World has one of the largest collections of traction engines, veteran tractors, stationary engines, memorabilia and agricultural machinery in the Southern Hemisphere. Machinery is regularly operated at the annual ‘Steam Up’ during the long weekend at the beginning of November.

The collection contains more than 200 items that were collected from the 1950s by the Pearn brothers, Jack, Zenith and Verdun, when they saw that the era of steam was drawing to a close. The Pearn family’s agricultural contracting business operated for over eighty years in the Westbury district. Since its establishment in the 1980s, the museum has been run by volunteers and family members dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the collection.

INFORMATION

address: 65 Meander Valley Road, Westbury 7303
tel: (03) 6393 1414, ah: (03) 6393 1271
email: info@pearnssteamworld.org.au
open: daily; hours vary, depending on the time of year
admission: charges apply
www.pearnssteamworld.org.au

Photographs: M. Cowen
The Port Sorell History Group was established in 2005 by a group of volunteers to record details about the history of the area. To date the group has acquired and restored an old whaleboat and collected artefacts and photographs relating to early Port Sorell. The latter are on display boards that are often exhibited at local events. The whaleboat and other artefacts of interest are also frequently displayed. The collection is currently housed privately. With the support of the Latrobe City Council, group members are aiming to develop a history centre within the council’s planned information centre, where the group’s collection will be on permanent display.
The origins of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG) collections predate the museum itself. They can be traced back to the Launceston Mechanics’ Institute, which was established in 1842. The Institute quickly recognised the educational value of a museum collection and while based originally in the natural sciences the collection quickly expanded to include historical objects and art.

During the next 40 years these collections grew to the point where a new building was required. This coincided with a broader interest in the city of Launceston to host an international exhibition. While funding for such an exhibition was not forthcoming from the state government, it was supportive of a request for £5000 for a new museum building which was agreed to in 1884. On 29 April 1891 Launceston’s new museum, the Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, was opened at Royal Park on the site of the old Invalid Depot. From these beginnings, the breadth of the Museum’s collection was apparent and they included the natural sciences, humanities and the arts.

The transit telescope was owned by amateur astronomer Francis Abbott. It was later used at the Hobart Observatory after its establishment in 1882. In the early 1900s the telescope was transferred to the University of Tasmania.
QVMAG collections continued to be developed and strengthened to become a significant asset in the cultural life of Launceston and Tasmania. Collectively, they give a great insight into the cultural, creative and natural heritage of Tasmania and add significantly to Launceston and its region’s identity. The collections have benefited greatly from the generosity of donors, many of whom have been and remain citizens of Launceston. Generous individual benefactors have left dedicated bequests in support of collection development. They have been joined by allied organisations such as the QVMAG Arts Foundation and QVMAG Friends who have supported significant acquisitions for the collections across all disciplines.

Today the QVMAG, which is owned and operated by the Launceston City Council, has two key sites: the 19th century railway workshops at Inveresk which house and display the natural sciences and history collections; and the Royal Park building on Wellington Street which was officially re-opened to the public as a dedicated Art Gallery in 2011.

Above: QVMAG Art Gallery at Royal Park.

INFORMATION

address: Art Gallery at Royal Park,
2 Wellington Street, Launceston 7250
and Museum at Inveresk,
2 Invermay Road, Launceston 7250
tel: (03) 6323 3777
open: 10.00 am – 4.00 pm daily,
closed Good Friday and Christmas Day
admission: free

Photographs: Sean Fennessy
**QVMAG – fine art, decorative arts and design collections**

The Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery collects and displays fine art and decorative arts principally from Australia with particular reference to Tasmania. The extent, depth and diversity of the fine art and decorative arts collections of the QVMAG are exceptional for a regional art museum in Australia. They reflect this city’s cultural awareness and the commitment of its community to its heritage and creative future.

The fine art and decorative arts collections have continued to develop largely as a result of donations by members of the Launceston community from the earliest founding years. They reflect the generosity and vision of the people of Launceston and its region for more than 150 years.

Of great support has been the QVMAG Arts Foundation which has since 1985, through the generosity of the Launceston community and with the support of the Tasmanian Government, raised over $1.25 million and supported the acquisition of over 140 artworks. The QVMAG Friends have also made valued contributions to the collections.

One of the key strengths of the fine art and decorative arts collections is that which focuses on Tasmania and northern Tasmania in particular. The Tasmanian Colonial Art collection documents the artistic heritage of Tasmania through paintings, works on paper and sculpture. One of the unique aspects of this collection is its nationally significant colonial portraits, landscapes and 19th century works on paper. The Modern and Contemporary Australian Art collection documents the history of Australia’s postcolonial art with nationally important paintings, works on paper, sculpture and multi-media. One of the largest single-artist collections is that of Launceston artist Bea Maddock donated in the majority by the artist herself. The contemporary art collections are embracing dynamic new media and digital works.

Within the QVMAG Decorative Arts and Design collection its Contemporary Craft and Design area documents the evolution of contemporary craft and design in Australia since 1945. The Tasmanian Decorative Arts collection showcases the material cultural heritage of Tasmania with unique examples of 19th and early 20th century ceramics, furniture and woodwork, textiles and costumes. This is supported by the Australian Decorative Arts collection with works, ceramics and textiles designed and made pre 1945.

From left: Thomas Bock, Jane Campbell and her Mother, circa 1842, oil on canvas. Purchased with funds from the QVMAG Arts Foundation and the Turner Ralph Bequest, 2011.


Amelia Burrows, Folding Screen, 1889, Blackwood, canvas, velvet, oil paint. Acquired with assistance from the QVMAG Arts Foundation.
The QVMAG History collection represents both Tasmania’s place in Australia and the world, and brings the world to Tasmania. The collection contains highly significant items relating to Tasmanian Aboriginal art and culture. One of the most important items is the last woven grass basket made by Truganini. The basket has been in the Museum’s collection since 1909, and is significant as it is the only basket of this date by a known maker.

During the 19th century, many collectors began collecting material from the indigenous cultures of the Pacific including from Papua New Guinea. Some of these collections contain some very rare pieces of art and material culture and became part of the collections of the new Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery when it was founded.

Some of the more significant items in the History collection are not individual objects, but collections such as the Guan Di Temple, Sydney Cove archeological collection and John Watt Beattie collection.

The Guan Di Temple, also known as the Joss House, contains items from Chinese temples in north-eastern Tasmanian mining towns. All Tasmanian temples were built during the 1880s, when the population of Chinese in Tasmania was at its peak. The original temples were small wooden buildings with tin roofs, but they contained valuable and important items.

In 1797 the Sydney Cove was wrecked off Preservation Island in the Furneaux group, en route to Port Jackson. It is the eighth oldest shipwreck in Australian waters, and the first merchant vessel to be lost after the establishment of the colony of New South Wales. Sydney Cove was owned by Calcutta-based company Campbell and Clark, and carried a cargo of alcohol, foodstuffs, textiles, luxury goods and livestock. After the rediscovery of the wreck site in 1970, the QVMAG has been involved in the excavation, preservation and display of the material recovered, and it now forms one of the museum’s most important collections.

Clockwise from left: This large and impressive figure was collected by Mr J. Cowling in the 1900s, from Bamu River, Western Province, Papua New Guinea. Cowling worked with AC Haddon, a leading figure in the development of modern anthropology. These figures are associated with Mauer initiation and fertility ceremonies. The Guan Di Temple represents the religious life of the Chinese miners who came to Tasmania’s north-east in the last decades of the 19th century.
The museum also holds a number of motor vehicles. The most important is a 1923 Alfa Romeo RLS, one of only five of this model in the world, and the only one still retaining its original body. The engine and chassis were bought by Launceston businessman Gordon Fysh for the princely sum of £795, and the coachwork was made locally by AA Denton for £175. Fysh’s Alfa unofficially became the first car in Tasmania to reach 100 miles per hour, before the bodywork was added, and was the first Alfa Romeo with a racing victory outside Europe.

The Australasian League was formed to campaign for the ending of the transportation of convicts to the Australian colonies. As the campaign grew to include Van Diemen’s Land (Tasmania), Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and New Zealand, it became Australia’s first local movement for self-determination. The banner of the league, designed by the Reverend John West in Launceston in 1851, is an important precursor to the current Australian flag.

As well as objects, the QVMAG holds a large collection of historic photographs. Some of the best of these were by the notable Tasmanian photographer and antiquarian John Watt Beattie (1859–1930). Beattie popularised Tasmania by photographing seldom seen areas.

The QVMAG Library holds a significant Rare Book collection including the 19th century rare and illustrated books relating to Tasmania’s and Australia’s natural and cultural history. Highlights include rare volumes of early 19th century European voyages to Australia; books from Tasmanian convict prisons and probation stations, volumes from the Evandale Subscription Library and those from the Library of colonial artist John Glover. The Library also has reference collections of architectural and engineering drawings and maps.
The QVMAG scientific collections have national and international significance. They include a wide range of objects and specimens covering both the natural and physical sciences, and are a major resource for research into Tasmania’s scientific past and present.

Probably the most significant and iconic zoological objects QVMAG holds are five mounted specimens of the thylacine (commonly known as the Tasmanian tiger), the last known example of which died in Hobart in 1936. As with so many of the QVMAG holdings, they form historical links to people and places in northern Tasmania. The earliest thylacine mounts were acquired prior to 1897, and the most recent in 1912 with the acquisition of a specimen prepared by Launceston taxidermist William Notman, who prepared many other Museum specimens.

The QVMAG also holds a significant collection of megafauna including the first specimen of the marsupial lion *Thylacoleo*, a nearly complete skull of the giant wallaby *Protemnodon*, a partial skeleton of the short-faced kangaroo *Simothenurus*, and an almost complete skeleton of *Zygomaturus*, a large wombat-like diprotodontid from north-west Tasmania. The QVMAG also holds a number of significant site collections including the Scotchtown quarry, internationally recognised for its diversity of megafaunal remains.

The geological collection has over 10,000 minerals, representative rock types and important specimens of meteorites, tektites and Darwin glass, and vertebrate and invertebrate fossil material. The geology store includes representative regional collections from across Tasmania, specimen collections and significant collections acquired from private collectors, including the Lancaster collection (over 4000 specimens dominated by Tasmanian samples) and the Cunningham collection (over 500 rare and high quality specimens).

The botanical collection is a repository for specimens from many Tasmanian collectors including the early Tasmanian naturalist Ronald Campbell Gunn whose specimens date back to 1838. The collection also includes an important book of pressed orchids belonging to Charlotte Smith.

**From left:** A beautiful crystalline form of lead, crocoite was declared Tasmania’s mineral emblem in 2000.

**Orchid, Chiloglottis gunni,** collected by Ronald Campbell Gunn from Circular Head, north-west Tasmania in 1837.

Between 1957 and 1987 over 200 Skylark rockets were launched from Woomera in South Australia. They were useful for X-ray astronomy research because X-rays from space cannot be detected from the ground.
The QVMAG, which includes the Planetarium, has become well known for housing by far the most significant historical astronomy collections in Tasmania, highlighting research performed over many years. The collection features both professional and amateur astronomy, and amongst the significant objects are several used by Grote Reber, the world’s first radio astronomer. In the 1960s he set up a huge antenna array near Bothwell to study the sky at long radio wavelengths.

One of the many significant astronomy objects is the QVMAG Skylark rocket, which is of the type that was used to launch scientific experiments on suborbital flights. The University of Tasmania sent detectors on these rockets to locate sources of X-rays coming from space.

In 1989, Tasmanian astronomers participated in an exciting discovery: Pluto, now classified as a dwarf planet, has an atmosphere. The QVMAG collection includes the light-measuring device called a photometer that was used at the Mount Canopus Observatory near Hobart to make the key Tasmanian measurements.

Another major object from the Astronomical collection is the Hobart Observatory transit telescope. The observatory was established in 1882, and the telescope was used to make observations of stars in order to set clocks accurately. It had previously been owned by prominent amateur astronomer Francis Abbott (1799–1883) who ran a private observatory in Murray Street, Hobart. Such a telescope is mounted so as to be able to move up and down only, always pointing along a north-south line in the sky called the meridian. Observation of the moment of the passage of a star across the meridian was, for the 19th century, the best way of calculating the exact time.

In 1989, Tasmanian astronomers participated in an exciting discovery: Pluto, now classified as a dwarf planet, has an atmosphere. The QVMAG collection includes the light-measuring device called a photometer that was used at the Mount Canopus Observatory near Hobart to make the key Tasmanian measurements.

Photographs: John Leeming, David Maynard (jewel beetle)
On the second floor of the Richardson’s Harley-Davidson dealership, established in 1978, is the museum with its display of motorcycles set out in decades, from 1903 to 1990. A rare delight so far from Milwaukee!
This is the state’s only display of historical horse-drawn vehicles. They include carriages, gigs, jinkers, carts, wagons, buggies, pagnells and drays. Visitors can view bulky farm transport and work equipment and sleek, elegant vehicles used by the gentry only on special occasions. Some vehicles have been restored.

The collection allows an appreciation of life when individuals and businesses depended on horses and their horse-drawn vehicles.
The official opening of the private Tucker Tennis Museum was held in September 2011. It is believed to contain the most comprehensive records of Australia’s proud Davis Cup history. The museum also charts the history of tennis itself, with exhibits dating back to the establishment of the sport.

The collection consists of photographs and autographs of every Davis Cup player since Norman Brookes, who, in 1905, played at Wimbledon. (He was knighted in 1939.) Autographs and photographs of every male and female Wimbledon winner since 1877 are on display (including the first male and female Wimbledon winners – Spencer Gore and Maud Watson – as well as all Australian male and female winners).

Visitors can view more than 500 historically important tennis books dating back to the late-nineteenth century; many are signed and some have multiple signatures. John Fitzgerald’s Grand Slam doubles trophies and the 2003 Davis Cup, the team of which he was captain, are featured. Also on display are Fred Perry’s ‘Anthony Wilding’ Australasian Cup (he was the winner of the 1934 Australian championships), the Drobny’s Wimbledon ‘Kingscote’ Veteran’s trophy, Rodney Heath’s 1919 Wimbledon doubles medal and Geoff Brown’s Wimbledon medals. Visitors can also see an 1896 French clock among many other displays.
THE VINTAGE TRACTOR SHED

On the outskirts of Westbury there is a collection of vintage and classic tractors owned by the father and son team of Hedley and Glenn Shaw.

Known as the ‘Vintage Tractor Shed’, it is home to about ninety machines, most in running order and all with a story to tell. Although some makes on display are well known, there are other examples imported from the mainland that were never offered for sale in this state and are of particular interest because of their size and mechanical design.

The collection was established when former tractor salesman Hedley Shaw realised in the early 1960s that many old tractors he grew up with were being scrapped or wrecked, and he set about saving them.

A number of tractors were collected and restored to running order. Appearances at local agricultural shows did much to raise awareness about the importance of saving these proud old workhorses. After restoring his first tractor in 1983, Glenn, with his father’s help, began collecting and restoring more tractors for the growing collection.

By 1986 people were asking to view the collection, so the Vintage Tractor Shed opened to the public, with Hedley devoting himself full time to the museum, which also has one of Australia’s biggest collections of scale-model tractors, trucks and cars on show.

INFORMATION

address: Veterans Row,
Westbury 7303
tel: (03) 6393 1167
open: daily 10.00 am – 4.00 pm
admission: by a gold coin donation

Clockwise from top:
HSCS Model R30-35 1951,
John Deere Model AR 1938,
Marshall 12-20 Diesel 1938,
McCormick Deering W-40 1937

Photographs: G. Shaw
WESTBURY AND DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Westbury and Districts Historical Society, established in 1993, is an association of individuals with a shared interest in the rich history of the area. The group is particularly interested in local stories and its connection with the Irish, including Irish exiles, and in military pensioners.

Members undertake research, publish books about local history, provide workshops and exhibit displays at local shows. There are monthly meetings, sometimes with guest speakers. Located in the former police station, the society has three rooms in which its collection is housed. They contain a number of local history items including registers of births and deaths, photographs, plaques and items of local interest. The rooms are open to the public and research can be undertaken.

Objects particularly treasured include the Westbury Oddfellows’ banner; parts of buildings from the local area, such as a gaol door; farming implements; and an extensive photograph collection that documents changes in the Westbury district over the years. After undertaking comprehensive research, society members were instrumental in the establishment of the new Westbury Silhouette Trail, which highlights the history of the town.

INFORMATION

address: 28 Lyall Street, Westbury 7303

tel: (03) 6393 1006

e-mail: info@westburyhistorical.org.au

open: Tuesday 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm
Saturday 11.00 am – 1.00 pm

www.westburyhistorical.org.au

Photographs: Courtesy of the Westbury and Districts Historical Society
The West Tamar Historical Society was formed in 2000 to protect, preserve and promote the history of the West Tamar. Its main project is the York Town Historic Site: the site of the first European settlement in northern Tasmania (1804). In conjunction with the West Tamar Council and the Parks and Wildlife Service the group has prepared a management plan for the site, built amenities and provided signage to enable visitors to understand the history of the site. Self-guided tours can be taken at any time. More than fifty sites that date from the 1804–08 settlement of the town have been located. Three parcels of land have been purchased to ensure the site will remain in public ownership. The society supported the listing of the site on the State Heritage Register.

In 2006 society members undertook an archaeological excavation of three buildings: a soldiers hut, the storekeeper’s house and the government cottage. This work revealed different building types: wattle and daub, sawn timber/earthen floor and timber, plaster and suspended timber floors. It also revealed many artefacts including two 1798 halfpennies, china, buttons, bottle glass, two musket balls and many building materials. An archaeologist is currently cataloguing and conserving these artefacts. When complete the collection will return to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery. There is a display of some of this material at the Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Centre.
Volunteers around the state attended a two day significance workshop in 2012 – funded by National Library of Australia and presented by Significance International Director Veronica Bullock
NORTH-EAST TASMANIA
The old Avoca State School opened in 1908 and by 1929 there were seventy-three pupils enrolled. Prime Minister Joe Lyons visited the school in 1936, the year the wireless set and electric power were installed. This heritage-listed building, 103 years old at the time of writing, has been restored by Greater Esk Tourism to promote the Fingal Valley region.

The building houses a museum, a visitor information centre and a gallery that enables the many local artists to exhibit their work.

On display are fine examples of very old crafts including blackwork: monochromatic embroidery that appeared in English fashion when the Spanish Catherine of Aragon married Henry VIII. Also to be seen is Jacobean embroidery, worked in sepia at the time of James II of England, as well as many other pieces from different periods.

The museum holds items from residents who attended the old school and who remember carrying their desks in 1951 to the new school. There is a grade two reader and exercise book and items depicting past local industries. A vase is also on display that was washed away in the 1929 floods, then retrieved and presented to a local resident.
Bowman History Room

The history room was opened in November 1996 as a tribute to and in recognition of the life and work of Bowman family members that began when Daniel Bowman arrived on Flinders Island in 1913. It displays family and shop memorabilia and includes early photographs of the settlement of Whitemark. The family’s story is inextricably linked with the development and progress of the island. The different fashions, shopping methods, furniture, household and personal items reflect some of these changes.

Daniel and his wife Elizabeth (known as Maud) opened a small store on the site in November 1921 with a home at the rear. In 1935 a new home was built behind the shop and it is the lounge room of this building that houses the collection.

In 1995 the death of the matriarch of the Bowman clan, the indomitable ‘Aunty’ Ruth, led her niece to draw together a vast collection of photographs – including some glass slides and box brownie prints. As well, Maud’s sewing equipment, medicines, kitchen items, balls of recycled string, old shop items and unsold clothing from silk gloves to hobnailed boots all tell the story of the early settlers.

Precious items of Dan’s that he had kept from his service in France in World War I were a major find. These include diaries, maps, personal care items, postcards and letters.

Old ledger books with copperplate entries are of interest to those seeking information about any former island residents. Items from the family’s interests in transport, shipping, aircraft and farming are also included.

Information
address: 2 Patrick Street, Whitemark, Flinders Island 7255, at the rear of E.M. Bowman & Co. Pty Ltd Country Store and Newsagency
tel: (03) 6359 2008
e-mail: Lois.ieland@bigpond.com
open: during shop trading hours – Monday to Friday 9.00 am – 5.00 pm and Saturday 9.00 am – 12.00 noon
admission: gold coin donation to support the Furneaux Historical Association

Photographs: L. Ireland
The Derby Schoolhouse Museum is located in the historic and picturesque township of Derby in Tasmania’s North-East. As its name suggests the museum is housed in the township’s 115-year-old refurbished timber school building.

Derby has a unique and vibrant history dating from 1875 when rich tin deposits were discovered in the Ringarooma and Cascade Rivers. A ramshackle mining camp quickly developed into a thriving business centre with thousands of people arriving from all over the world to make their fortune. Stories of boom and bust, the town’s development, the arrival of the resourceful Chinese miners, and a devastating flood that killed fourteen people in 1929 are told through the artefacts, photographs and documents on display in the museum.

A section of the museum is dedicated to World War I, and includes an honour roll, a Gallipoli medal and a set of name tags worn at Gallipoli, donated by the family of a Derby war hero.

One of the most significant artefacts in the museum is a unique, beautifully carved altar, commissioned in memory of a victim of the 1929 Briseis Mine disaster. The altar was gifted to St Paul’s Church, Derby, where it remained until the church closed in 1997.

Many other items are on display. Volunteers are always happy to share stories of Derby’s past and assist visitors.

INFORMATION
address: 53 Main Street, Derby
tel: 0457 281 257
open: warmer months 10.00 am – 4.00 pm
colder months 11.00 am – 3.00 pm
admission: entry by donation

Photographs: V. Valentino
The Dorset Museum was established in 2006 as a private museum. A local couple, concerned at the continuing loss from the district of irreplaceable artefacts, decided it was time for something to be done. As finances permit they have continued to purchase items for their collection with the aim of sharing them with others.

People have frequently donated items and a collection of documents, newspaper clippings, photographs and history books has been assembled, which has proved invaluable for people with an interest in the history of the district and particularly for those researching their family histories.

At the time of writing local cemeteries and business premises in the main towns of the North-East are being studied.

The museum has been purpose built of timber and corrugated iron to blend in with its surroundings. It also contains a large display of vintage and other items of women’s clothing and accessories and a smaller display of gentlemen’s attire. There is an assemblage of tools – all restored – as well as kitchen, laundry, sewing and other domestic artefacts.
In 2002 work commenced on the East Coast Veterans’ Information and Support Centre and it was officially opened in 2005. The display area contains collections of items from the Boer War to those associated with today’s peacekeeping operations. It is managed and operated by volunteers. (The centre also hosts ‘Broadband for Seniors’.)
The Furneaux Museum on Flinders Island showcases the history of the Furneaux Group of islands in north-east Tasmania. The museum is a cluster of seven buildings that are themselves exhibits. Included is the one-time private school and residence of the first government-subsidised teacher on Flinders Island. The first lessons were conducted in 1912. Dryazell, which is still set on its original site, was the first museum building. A replica of a mutton-bird processing shed as used from 1920 to 1948 has been built. There is also a Nissen hut and works office from the post-World War II War Service Land Settlement Scheme. The largest and most recent construction is the main exhibition building that houses an office reception area and a large space for special exhibitions. Exhibitions are changed every six months.

Artefacts from some of Australia’s earliest European settlement include an anchor from the Sydney Cove, wrecked in 1797 on Preservation Island. Relics from many of the shipwrecks that occurred around the islands are housed in the Nissen hut. The grim history of the Wybalenna settlement is recorded in the Aboriginal Room. There is also an exquisite collection of Aboriginal shell necklaces as well as shells themselves. The Mutton Bird Shed provides an authentic look at an island tradition, with other exhibits displaying examples of the geology and fauna of the region. Artefacts from the early pioneering days are also to be seen. There is a collection of albums containing photographs and documents that show all aspects of life in the Furneaux region. In all there are approximately 2000 images, 1200 documents and 1500 objects.

**INFORMATION**

address: 8 Fowlers Road, Emu Bay 7255

 tel: (03) 6359 2010

 fax: (03) 6359 2026

 email: furneauxmuseum@hotmail.com

open: summer hours – from Boxing Day up to and including the weekend after Easter, from 1.00 pm – 5.00 pm daily except Fridays; winter hours – after the weekend following Easter until the end of September; Saturday, Sunday and public holidays 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm; spring hours – from October to Christmas Eve: Saturday, Sunday and public holidays, closed Christmas Day 1.00 pm – 5.00 pm.
Members of the Ringarooma community met in 2000 to discuss the formation of a group to develop a historical and cultural centre in the former Anglican Church complex in the main street of Ringarooma. After receiving funding the premises were restored to their former glory.

The Ringarooma Community Cultural Heritage Association’s aims and objectives are to promote and foster the culture and heritage of Ringarooma and its surrounding areas, and to preserve and restore its historical records and buildings of historical and cultural significance.

The group now administers the visitors centre as well as taking responsibility for the annual Anzac Day memorial service.

Displays of quilts, wedding dresses and items associated with mining and dairying, for example, have been included in past exhibitions.

This is a self-guided museum. Visitors are encouraged to browse through the family history folders and books and view its artefacts.
ROSSARDEN AND STORYS CREEK MUSEUM

In the 1880s tin mining commenced at Storys Creek after Chinese prospectors found tin and wolfram a decade earlier. The area was a remote miners camp until 1925, when houses were built for workers. The town of Rossarden was constructed for miners at Aberfoyle Tin N.L., which commenced production in September 1931. By the early 1970s Aberfoyle Ltd had purchased both mines but a dramatic drop in metal prices in 1972 saw production fall at Storys Creek. Forestwood Holdings bought the mine in 1981 then closed all operations a year later. By October 1982 the town’s population had dropped from more than 500 to about ninety.

Today Rossarden has sixty residents; Storys Creek has only one family, yet the history of the townships lives on. A group of local residents has established a museum to enable the collection and protection of items of interest and to interpret the history of the area. The Rossarden and Storys Creek Museum is housed in the former Rossarden Primary School that opened in 1934 and closed in 1992. (The Rossarden Progress Association now leases the building.)

The museum displays items that provide information about the mining history of the once thriving towns of Rossarden and Storys Creek. Information about sport, health, school and mining town life is available. Displays include photographs, tools, football memorabilia as well as mine and medical records.

Black and white images clockwise from top right: Storys Creek State School with the first teacher Miss Flo Holden, 1918
Daryl Hayes and his horse Dobbin at Storys Creek mid-1970s
Lutwyche Project poppet head
Sister McEwan, Avoca bush nurse, who visited Storys Creek prior to the town having its own nurse, 1919.

INFORMATION
address: 1 Schell Street, Rossarden 7213
tel/fax: (03) 6385 2147
email: mldennis@skymesh.com.au
open: by prior arrangement
admission: by donation
www.rossardenonline.org.au

Photographs: P. Dennis, H. Richards, G. Watson, and courtesy of the Nursing Board of Tasmania
ST HELENS HISTORY ROOM

At the St Helens History Room there are more than 1000 artefacts on display. These are presented thematically to represent the various stages of settlement of St Helens, from a collection of Aboriginal stone tools, to European exploration of the East Coast, and to the discovery of tin in the 1870s. In addition to these displays, there is also a photographic collection with more than 20,000 images. The room also houses an extensive family history archive relating to early settlers’ families.

The history room is either the starting or the end point of the ‘Trail of the Tin Dragon’. A short film tells the story of the Chinese tin miners in North-East Tasmania, with images conveyed via a hologram installation in the theatrette. Visitors may also enter the ‘Dragon Room’ that contains more information about the legacy of the Chinese.

A range of publications is offered for sale through the Visitor Information Centre.
ST MARYS CRANKS & TINKERERS

Quite a few years ago a group decided to set up a collection in the main street of St Marys in which visitors could get lost in another world surrounded by a display of interesting items such as fifty-year-old cars, motorcycles, buggies, model aircraft and boats, bottles, books and cameras etc. Members are all volunteers who keep the museum open and catch up for a chat or to work on the exhibits. The collection is on display at the St Marys railway station.
The society was incorporated in September 2007 after a group of past and present residents of the region with a special interest in the Fingal Valley’s history were prompted to preserve a collection of diverse material gathered from a variety of sources.

Photos, documents, artefacts and information have been secured to prevent items from being dispersed or included in private collections. Plans are underway to expand the collection and to promote and exhibit important historical items as a means of sharing the community’s heritage.

The collection is at present in storage. It is hoped that by mid-2013 it will be available for public viewing in the Railway Station building.

INFORMATION
address: Railway Station, Esk Highway, St Marys 7215
tel: (03) 6372 5752
www.fingalvalleyhistory.com
Photographs: Courtesy of the St Patricks Head and Esk Valley Historical Society Inc.
The Scottsdale RSL Museum has a substantial military collection. Some of the items on display include an M60 machine gun, a self-loading rifle, as well as a display of rations and cooking utensils used during the Vietnam War. There are also Light Horse saddles, Dead Man’s Pennies (a commemorative medallion presented to the next-of-kin of those who died during World War I), Lee Enfield .303 rifles and boots and puttees used during World War I.

Military uniforms and medals are also on display as well as an extensive collection of photographs of mainly local people who served in Australia’s many wars. Memorabilia have been collected from all wars in which Australia has been involved.
Volunteers around the state attended a two-day significance workshop in 2012 – funded by National Library of Australia and presented by Significance International Director Veronica Bullock.
NORTH-WEST TASMANIA
The history of competitive wood chopping is the story of Australian pioneering bushmen and their families. It’s a history to be very proud of. Their bush skills and unique culture are disappearing together with the last generation to work the forests with an axe and a crosscut saw. The Australian Axeman’s Hall of Fame at Latrobe is the first national museum dedicated to this aspect of our colonial history. It honours the men who became legends in a sport that was a direct extension of their rugged working life. Our great Australian axemen are revered today, drawing huge crowds at agricultural shows and carnivals when they perform throughout the country. People marvel at this traditional display of skills and strength and the element of danger involved.

The museum displays items that were used for harvesting, milling and building – all developed to cope with rugged conditions. The Hall of Fame was built at Bells Parade, where, in 1891, the first world wood-chopping championship was staged. It is a sporting history like no other, notable for its family links from one generation to another. It is a sport with a direct connection to the bush spirit of Australia, as much in need of preservation as the story of our pioneering forefathers.

FAST FACTS:
- First sod turned 26 January 1995
- Opened 18 December 2002
- There are fourteen timber pillars, made from wood from all of the states; the pillar of Huon pine is 1000 years old.
- The youngest – at fifty-seven years – is hoop pine from Queensland
- The heaviest is the blackheart sassafras at 2.2 tonnes
- Each column is 30 feet [10 metres] high
- The arena floor is made of recycled car tyres from the Netherlands and it is covered by 44,000 pieces of parquetry
- You can drive a semi-trailer through the rear main doors
- There are 3.2 tonnes of steel in the roof
- The seating capacity for theatre-style events is 530
- The venue can cater for as many as 350 guests for sit-down events

INFORMATION
address: Bell’s Parade, Latrobe 7307
tel: (03) 6426 2099
open: daily 9.00 am – 5.00 pm
www.axemanscomplex.com.au
BASS STRAIT MARITIME CENTRE

The Devonport Maritime Museum is housed in the former harbour master’s residence and pilot station buildings c. 1920, now included in what is known as the Joshua Slocum Park. The museum is a significant landmark near Devonport’s river foreshore.

The museum has an extensive maritime and local history collection featuring flag displays, fine detailed models from the days of sail and steam to modern drive on-off vehicular and passenger ships, bells, naval displays and memorials, photographs and local pioneer family history records.

The construction of an extension to the museum during 2012 will result in the museum re-opening as the Bass Strait Maritime Centre. This will include interactive displays that will involve historical events related to the strait as well as its natural history. The new centre will offer the opportunity to sail on the Julie Burgess, a recently restored 1936 small ‘tall’ ship. Visitors will be able to experience the way vessels were sailed in bygone days.
The Burnie Regional Museum holds the third-largest collection in Tasmania. It includes the history of Burnie and the north-west region from the time the first Europeans struck out from Port Sorell in the mid-1820s to explore the uncharted wilderness up to the present day. The museum tells the stories of the people who lived and worked in Burnie at the time of Federation, and holds collections from many of the major figures in Burnie’s history.

The museum was established in 1971 by local historian Peter Mercer, who later became curator of history at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. Peter was an avid collector of authentic pieces from across the north-west region. His private museum formed the basis of the collections of the Burnie Regional Museum.

The museum’s main attraction, the charming Federation Street, was meticulously researched, planned and created by Peter Mercer, and is based upon the very successful Kirkgate Victorian Street in York, England. It represents life in Burnie at the turn of the twentieth century and captures the city and region’s past in lifestyle, culture and architecture. The objects on display are Federation period pieces and the façades of the buildings are constructed mainly from material salvaged from demolished houses and shops built in the late nineteenth century. Even the paint colours and sign-writing styles are faithful to the period.

Since the museum opened its doors in 1971, the collection has grown considerably and now represents much more than what is on display in the Federation Street. The museum holds many special collections and unique items.
From left: Clock mechanism originally installed in the Burnie Town Hall in 1913, now a working exhibit

Whale tooth scrimshaw, c. 1857, showing the vessel HMS Iris, the first flagship of the Australian Station

Ship’s Log, a device used for ascertaining the rate of speed of a ship

Tasmanian emu eggs – Tasmania’s emu has been extinct since the 1860s

Top right: Myrtle and blackwood violin made by Burnie local WJ ‘Wilf’ Campbell while working in the bush during the Great Depression

Photographs: Bob Iddon, Rick Eaves
CIRCULAR HEAD HERITAGE CENTRE

The Circular Head Heritage Centre was established in 1997 and occupies one of the few remaining early settler buildings more than 100 years old in the township of Smithton in the far North-West. Supported and funded by the Circular Head Council the museum is entirely managed and run by volunteers. The collection reflects the life of the early pioneers and the working life of the community.

The museum has an extensive family history research room with access to records such as the Tasmania Pioneer Index and other genealogical records. The local newspaper, The Circular Head Chronicle, has been microfilmed and can be viewed at the museum. A collection of maps is also held.

There is an extensive collection of photographs from local families that includes images of early settlement when the Van Diemen’s Land Co. held land titles to those showing changes to the streetscape of the town especially during the 1960s and 1970s.

The collection houses a life-sized plaster cast model of a *Zygomaturus tasmanicus*. The fossilised bones of this giant marsupial dating from the Pleistocene era were discovered in the early 1930s at the Mowbray Swamp near Smithton.
The building was originally the Family & Commercial Inn and remained a licensed public house until 1894. From 1894 until the 1920s the building was in the Bennett family. It was purchased by Len Cubitt c. 1929.

In 1972 Alma Bramich (his daughter) donated the building and grounds to the community of Deloraine to help preserve the history of the pioneers of the area. She also wanted to pay tribute to them. The restoration of the property was carried out by the Deloraine Group of the National Trust, the Rotary Club of Deloraine and many members of the community. Items of interest were donated to the museum, which was named the Deloraine & District Folk Museum.

It has been refurbished to depict the life of a country publican. Downstairs there is the master bedroom, a sitting room, a dining room and a kitchen. Beneath the stairs is a selection of crockery and other items that were found, mostly broken, under the bedroom floor. Upstairs is a maids room, a nursery, a school room and a sewing room.

Also to be seen are the bar and Jimmy Possum snug, as well as the laundry, the Alma Bramich Garden, model dairy, farm tool shed, blacksmith’s shop, horse-drawn vehicle exhibition shed, display workshop, farm implement shed, outhouse and privy. Visitors can also investigate the trapper’s hut and settlers’ cottage. Playing the aquaphonium, a water-powered musical fountain, completes a visit.

In 2002 The Great Western Tiers Visitors Centre was opened which also houses ‘Yarns Artwork in Silk’.
THE DEVONPORT RSL SUB-BRANCH
JACK MASON MEMORIAL MUSEUM

The Devonport RSL Sub-Branch – Jack Mason Memorial Museum holds a collection of war memorabilia donated by local members or family members of war veterans from the Devonport and north-west district of the state. The collection contains items from the Boer War to those associated with present-day conflicts. The museum, established in May 1995, is dedicated to a life member of the Devonport RSL.

The collection provides veterans and visitors with information about the military involvement of members of the local community. As well, it is a tribute to those local Tasmanians and other Australians who served in a theatre of war.

Many items of state significance are included, such as a Boer War uniform, World War I officers tent, a letter from the Western Front and photographs of local community members who served the nation. There is a wide variety of medals, militaria and books associated with major conflicts in the twentieth century.

INFORMATION
address: 16–18 MacFie Street,
Devonport 7310
tel: (03) 6424 2673
fax: (03) 6424 9025
email: devonportrl@netspace.net.au
open: Thursday 10.00 am to 3.00 pm;
groups by prior arrangement
www.devonportrl.com

Clockwise from left: Wooden lion ashtray; World War I flying goggles; Henry Charles Mansfield 12th battalion 1914–15 Star; Howard Kayak Borneo 1946 killing knife comb
At Don Village on Forth Road, Devonport, there is a display of steam and diesel engines and other rolling stock that have all played an important part in Tasmania’s rail history. Historical railway artefacts and photographs can also be seen. Visitors are invited to take a half-hour ride on a vintage train along the old Melrose line to Coles Beach and back, and, as well, inspect the extensive workshop.

**INFORMATION**

address: Forth Road, Don 7310
tel: (03) 6424 6335
open: daily, except Good Friday and Christmas Day
summer, autumn and spring months: 10.00 am – 4.00 pm
winter months: 10.00 am – 3.00 pm;
steam train operates only on Sunday and public holidays
www.donriverrailway.com.au

**Photographs:**
Courtesy of the Don River Railway,
Sue Atkinson
ELIZABETH TOWN COLLECTABLES MUSEUM

In 1978 Ken Cooper’s parents, who were avid collectors, established a private museum. Their son continues to collect, and manage the museum. This collection has a wide variety of objects from men’s shed tools to children’s toys.

As visitors walk down the ramp to the displays they are taken back to their childhood with a ‘kid’s corner’ containing everything from teddy bears, sling shots, toy rifles, cars and books to yo-yos and other toys. There is a wall of model cars of all designs and colours.

The ‘dad’s corner’ displays hand tools of a bygone era that would have been in their fathers’ and grandfathers’ sheds.

Among many displays a complete kitchen has been set up with cooking implements, crockery and cast-iron pots for the wood fire. In addition there is a lamp collection, a barber’s room display and a music room.

There is also a new addition: a gemstone, mineral and rock collection once housed at Westbury that was at one time the largest in Australia.

INFORMATION
address: Bass Highway, Elizabeth Town 7304
tel: (03) 6368 1117
open: every day during summer months 10.00 am – 4.00 pm, less frequently during winter

Photographs: Sue Atkinson
FORTH VALLEY HISTORY GROUP

Forth, on the North-West Coast between Devonport and Ulverstone, was first explored in 1839 and later settled by James Fenton, who exported split palings to the Victorian goldfields. Originally named Hamilton-on-Forth, it became quite a busy town. In 1853, James ‘Philosopher’ Smith settled and became one of the largest landholders in the district. It became his base as he made major mineral discoveries on the West Coast. Fenton and Smith were later joined by Edward Braddon who became premier of Tasmania, and then, at Federation, the state’s representative. The pioneer, the prospector and the politician were not only friends, but noted as visionaries, ‘wise men of upright character’, who collaborated while working on many schemes that shaped this state and this country.

The Forth Valley History Group is made up of members who are proud of their heritage and enjoy presenting research and information about their past to the wider community. Meetings are held as required. Each year the group embarks on a major project, culminating in an event in the form of a series of open days to display their research. In 2011 the newly refurbished and renamed Forth Community Hall, its history and the place it held in the life of the community from 1880 were the subjects of the group’s inaugural display.

INFORMATION
address: Forth 7310
email: forthvalleyhistorygroup@gmail.com

Photographs: Courtesy of the Forth Valley History Group
Situated on a headland overlooking the impressive volcanic plug, the Nut, and the picturesque village of Stanley is the Highfield Historic Site. The story of Stanley and European settlement of the North-West is inextricably linked with that of Highfield.

The architecturally significant colonial Regency house and the surrounding farm buildings are what remain of a saga of human ambition, hardship and persistence in the face of extraordinary odds and an unforgiving land.

The historic site has been preserved largely intact and is one of the most significant colonial farm settlements in Australia. The site is managed by the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service with support from a volunteer advisory group.

**INFORMATION**

address: Greenhills Road, Stanley 7331
tel/fax: (03) 6458 1100
e-mail: highfield@parks.tas.gov.au
open: daily 1 September – 31 May,
9.30 am – 4.30 pm
weekdays only June – August,
9.30 am – 4.30 pm
www.historic-highfield.com.au
HOME HILL

Home Hill offers a glimpse into the lives of two extraordinary Australians and their family of twelve children. The house was built for Joe and Enid Lyons in 1916, in an orchard Joe had purchased the year before as a gift for Enid. At that time Joe was Tasmania’s minister for education and he went on to become premier, and later, prime minister of Australia. After Joe’s untimely death in office in 1939, Dame Enid Lyons became the first female elected to the House of Representatives and the first female to hold a Cabinet position in Federal Parliament.

Home Hill is a reminder of their family and political partnership, which is unmatched in Australian political life. It was, except from a few brief periods, their family home for their entire lives. This was a place where they found refuge from public life and kept their sense of the importance of home and family. It was where they would contemplate the complex issues facing the nation through the momentous events of the mid-twentieth century and where they were able to gain strength and inspiration.

Prior to Dame Enid’s death in 1981 she made arrangements for her much-loved home to remain in public ownership, with responsibility shared between the Devonport City Council and the National Trust of Tasmania. The interior of the house is as Dame Enid left it, with original wall coverings, floor coverings and furniture. Personal belongings fill the house together with an extraordinary collection of memorabilia, including presentation pieces, political cartoons, official invitations and photographs.

Dame Enid once said ‘the foundation of a nation’s greatness is in the homes of its people’ and Home Hill certainly reflects that sentiment.

Courtesy of Home Hill

INFORMATION
address: 77 Middle Road, Devonport 7310
tel: (03) 6424 8055
eemail: home.hill@nationaltrusttas.org.au
open: guided tours Wednesdays to Sundays 2.00 pm (and at other times by appointment); afternoon teas and tour packages available by arrangement; closed Mondays, Tuesdays, July, August, Good Friday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day
admission: charges apply
The House of Anvers opened its doors in October 2002, and now hosts more than 120,000 visitors a year.

The House of Anvers is located at the property formerly known as 'Wyndarra Lodge', a stylish 1931 Californian bungalow that is set in 1.12 hectares of gardens with mature trees. Anvers has had viewing windows installed for visitors to see chocolate making in action. There is no charge.

A small museum depicting the history of chocolate and the chocolate mould is incorporated. This starts with the Aztecs and continues to when chocolate was consumed only as a liquid in Europe (1700s) and then to the chocolate we know today. On display are chocolate moulds from most of the European manufacturers that date back to 1838.

There are also coffee and retail shops.
JOE LYONS COTTAGE

Joe Lyons’ cottage was built by Michael Lyons, who, at the time, owned the former Shamrock Inn next door. It was there that his grandson, Joseph Aloysius, was born on 15 September 1879.

Joe was destined to become the only Tasmanian to be prime minister of Australia. This humble cottage has become the only birthplace of an Australian prime minister available for public viewing.

The young Joe lived there until he was six, when his parents moved to Ulverstone. In 1891, aged eleven, he returned to Stanley to stay with his two aunts and attend school. He was a monitor and then a junior teacher at the school.

In 1981 the cottage was purchased by the Tasmanian Government. Ownership was vested in the (then) Department of Lands, Parks and Heritage. After extensive repairs it was initially used as one of several venues for the Circular Head Arts Festival. In 1988 it was leased to the Joe Lyons Cottage Inc. organisation to be opened to the public as a tribute to Joe Lyons and his wife Enid.

Since that time a small committee of local people has collected items representative of the era of Joe Lyons’ birth as well as copies of documents relating to his tenure in various political posts. The Commonwealth Government presented several pictorial stands showing scenes of Joe’s attendance at various Commonwealth events, as well as family pictures.

Also on display is a collection of books about Joe and Dame Enid, including some written by Dame Enid herself, as well as a complete family tree. Some of Joe’s memorable speeches can be heard, including the announcement of the abdication of King Edward VIII.
In 1984 the Kentish Museum was opened, after the local school celebrated its centenary. The many items that had been on show during that event were donated to the new museum. In 1987 the collection was moved to the old post office building, where artefacts that are part of Sheffield’s history are now displayed. They include agricultural machinery, minerals, shop fittings, old books, historical newspapers, pioneer household items and clothing. Most items have been donated. The museum also has excellent displays about the history of hydro-electricity in the local area.

Features are the Weindorfer Room and the inventions of Alf Rowe, a Sheffield resident, known as ‘the Kentish da Vinci’. Among his inventions on display are the world’s first self-service, coin-operated automated petrol pump; his pressure cooker; sound system; and handmade rotary head for racing car engines.

There is a comprehensive family history section with information about the early settlers of the district.
The King Island Museum is run by a group of volunteers who are members of the King Island Historical Society. It is housed in the former lighthouse keepers residence, Lighthouse Street, Currie.

The museum displays a collection of the island’s artefacts and each room concentrates on a different subject. The parlour, for example, is like stepping back in time to a long-gone era of finery, with models of ladies in long dresses, tennis party accoutrements etc., and the shipwreck room contains artefacts from the many ships that were wrecked around King Island. The Cape Wickham Lighthouse lens is another attraction and is displayed in the storeroom under the Currie lighthouse.

INFORMATION
post: PO Box 222, Currie, King Island 7256
tel: 0429 703 431
e-mail: sallyhaneveer@hotmail.com
open: daily from October to the end of June, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
admission: charges apply
LATROBE COURT HOUSE MUSEUM

The 1882 Court House Museum tells the story of Latrobe and surrounding areas since European settlement began in the mid-nineteenth century. The centre of a rich agricultural and forestry district the town has also been a major port on the North-West Coast, the site of the Tasmania’s oil shale industry and birthplace of competitive wood chopping in Australia. The museum tells its stories through changing displays and its comprehensive photographic collections.

INFORMATION
address: Post Office Reserve
113 Gilbert Street, Latrobe 7307
tel: (03) 6462 1289
e-mail: admin@nationaltrusttas.org.au
open: Tuesday to Friday
1.00 pm – 4.00 pm, or by appointment
www.nationaltrusttas.org.au

Photographs: Sue Atkinson
PENGUIN HISTORY GROUP INC.

The Penguin History Group collects and collates information from historical records and also collects memorabilia related to the region. All are available for viewing by the public.

The group leases two rooms in the Penguin Railway Station from the Central Coast Council to store its collection of photographs, books, oral histories, family histories etc. Members of the group volunteer their time and meet in the history rooms every Wednesday morning to organise the collection. The rooms are also open to the public at this time for research and assistance with family histories.
THE REDWATER CREEK STEAM & HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Redwater Creek Steam & Heritage Society is dedicated to the preservation and demonstration of how steam engines and vintage machinery work.

The group’s 1906 Krauss steam locomotive hauls vintage carriages along a two-kilometre long journey from the restored Sheffield Railway Station. The railway operates on the first weekend of every month from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm and for special events and, for groups, by prior arrangement.

Displays of agricultural and engineering practices of the steam era draw thousands to the annual SteamFest during each March long weekend. The event reflects rural culture and traditions including:

• working demonstrations of chaff cutting, straw pressing, grain threshing, rock crushing, steam rolling and road building
• displays of traditional agricultural practices such as draught horse ploughing and bullock team handling
• specialised skills such as blacksmithing, shingle cutting etc.

A 20 x 36 m shed on the site houses a wide range of steam engines and historical agricultural equipment from the steam era. The building is open for inspection when guides are available.

The group conducted the first of its annual steam training courses in 2011. With participants from across Australia, the weekend course ensured the skills to operate equipment safely are maintained. The society enjoys sharing its specialised knowledge and by allowing trainees and visitors access to their engines, society members are encouraging an ongoing interest in the steam era in the state.
Sherwood Hall has been relocated and restored on Bell’s Parade at Latrobe. The home is regarded as one of the most unique wooden colonial homes in Australia. It was constructed c. 1850 from hand-split, pit-sawn timber with very few nails, using mortise and tenon joints. It had a shingle roof, and ceilings were notched to fit the walls. The property is managed by the Sherwood Hall Restoration and Museum Committee.

The two-roomed cottage, Sherwood Hall, was built by a remarkable pioneer couple, ex-convict Thomas Johnson (1806–1867) and his half-Aboriginal wife Dolly Dalrymple Briggs (1808–1864) of the Dalrymple tribe from near the mouth of the Tamar River. In 1842 Thomas was transported to Van Diemen’s Land. Dolly was reared in the home of colonel surgeon Jacob Mountgarret of George Town, where she was taught to read and write and how to carry out domestic duties.

Thomas and Dolly eventually settled at Sherwood near Latrobe in 1845, where Thomas managed the Frogmore Estate. They prospered, at various times operating a coal mine, building a ‘native youth hotel’, constructing roads, bridges and a hall for public entertainment, and farming. They also raised thirteen children.

Thomas and Dolly died respected and recognised citizens and were buried under a laurel tree near their home’s original site on the bank of the Mersey River near the Railton Road. A memorial obelisk marks their graves.

Household furniture is on display, which belongs to Thomas and Dolly’s era. Items include a piano, a chaise longue, a dining table and chairs, and a kitchen dresser complete with crockery. A bed, a cot, a washstand, a dresser and clothing are to be seen in the bedroom.
The unique town of Stanley nestles at the foot of the iconic landform known as the Nut. Stanley itself has well-preserved historical buildings dating back to the 1830s.

The museum, in the St Paul’s church hall, is staffed by volunteers and has displays of what life was like for the first intrepid settlers who arrived on the Tramore in 1826. The settlement evolved to be proclaimed, in 1842, the first town on the North Coast.

There are records, letters, photographs and excerpts from the diary of Rosalie Hare documenting life in this fledgling Van Diemen’s Land Company settlement.

The museum provides insights into the everyday life of the early colonial settlers – from arts and crafts to butter churns and a brass band uniform almost a century old. Photographs of parades, festivities and ceremonies make the past come alive.
World War I memorabilia include a ‘Mary box’ (‘The Princess Mary 1914 Christmas Gift’: an embossed brass tobacco box, a ‘gift from the nation’ presented to ‘those wearing the King’s uniform’); a locally awarded ‘death penny’; a German machine gun; and Christmas greetings cards from ‘somewhere in France, 1915’.

Visitors can discover the stories behind nineteenth-century wedding gowns, an eighty-five-year-old wicker doll’s pram and whale strandings. They can view a unique display of shell ornaments, a dictaphone, and a stereoviewer, and can learn about and view items from shipwrecks.
Tiagarra was opened in October 1976. ’Tiagarra’ is an Aboriginal term from Bruny Island meaning ‘to keep’. This museum and cultural centre is one of the longest running in Australia and is a ‘keeping place’ for Tasmanian Aboriginal culture and artefacts. It is one of the few Tasmanian sites where ancient Aboriginal rock carvings are still well preserved.

The collection consist of more than 3000 significant historical objects. The museum currently displays and interprets the ways in which Tasmanian Aborigines traditionally lived: how people managed their resources, their coastal and inland environments and their trading economies prior to and during the early years of British colonisation. The original bands, or extended family groups, who made, used and left tools and other artefacts across their Tasmanian homelands are geographically identifiable. Descendants today are able to connect the deep past to the present, making links across time and place through collections such as those at Tiagarra. In this respect Tiagarra’s collections and its museum are immensely significant for all Tasmanians, and especially the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

A tour by Tasmanian Aboriginal guides is an informative, unique experience of cultural sharing. Visitors are taken on a journey across the land bridge that once connected mainland Australia to Tasmania and learn how people traditionally lived in the nine tribal regions of Tasmania, in which bands of extended families used local resources and developed skills determined by their environment. The museum offers displays of huts and shelters, animal and plant foods, stone and bone tool-making, hunting styles and weaponry, petroglyphs and other rock art. Middens and other significant traces of the past can be seen. The story is told of the forced exile of Tasmanian Aboriginal people to Bass Strait and their return to mainland Tasmania occupied and controlled by British rule. Their place in this island state today is emphasised, where protection of Aboriginal heritage and continuance of cultural practices are of primary significance to its Aboriginal people.
Tiagarra also provides a place for Aboriginal Tasmanians to meet, hold workshops and events and maintain and pass on cultural practices that include shell necklace work, basket weaving, bush food gathering and medicine making.

Tiagarra hosts regular school and other group tours and cultural events to which visitors and community members are invited. NAIDOC week celebrations are held annually (the first week in July).
The treasures at the Ulverstone History Museum provide a link with the community past and present. Items such as a ‘rabbit exterminator’ and a ‘wallaby jack’ are part of an extensive collection of agricultural tools and implements used by the early settlers. The museum houses a comprehensive collection of records, photographs and memorabilia relating to the Central Coast district – industrial, business, military and domestic items, among others. Of note are the re-created shop façades and the goods on display that were once sold.

G.P. Taylor, a photographer from the late 1800s to the mid-1900s, captured the town’s historical events and also took family photographs. There is a major collection of his works as well as a magic lantern. The museum also houses an ever-changing display of period clothes and accessories. Walking sticks from around the world can be seen.

A schoolroom from yesteryear has been re-created with student desks, slates, chalk, inkwells, and even the dreaded cane! A 1950s dental chair complete with drills, probes, puffers, a squirter and a spittoon is also on display.

Processing plants in Ulverstone once produced potato chips, and frozen rabbits for overseas markets. The museum has items from as well as information about the factories.

The original Beach House cottage where numerous families spent their summer vacation is located within the precinct, which has been furnished to reflect the time when it was being used. The North Mutton Railway Station building complete with its office, uniforms and suitcases can also be seen.

The museum’s library allows family history research. Legal documents, property titles and an 1895 chemist’s ledger, for example, can be viewed.
Clockwise from bottom left: Dental equipment

The North Motton Railway Station building complete with its office, uniforms and suitcases can also be seen

Re-created shop façade and the goods on display that were once sold

INFORMATION
address: 50 Main Street, Ulverstone 7315
tel: (03) 6425 3835
e-mail: ulvmuseum@bigpond.com
open: 10.30 am – 4.00 pm, subject to the availability of volunteers; the research library is open by appointment
www.ulvmuseum.org/index.html

Photographs: Sue Atkinson
The Waratah Museum was originally the idea of the 1st Waratah Girl Guide Unit and its leader. The Waratah Council gave the unit permission to use the former courthouse and council chambers and members commenced collecting items relating to the town’s – and surrounding areas’ – mining and social history. Many items were donated by locals. The museum offers a comprehensive collection of memorabilia and photographs relating to the town’s tin mining history.

At the time of writing it is envisaged that a courtroom scene will be re-created, and a more extensive display of minerals set up.

Photographs and documents are being catalogued relating to the, now closed, Waratah Primary School.

INFORMATION
address: Smith Street, Waratah 7321
tel: (03) 6439 1252 or (03) 6439 1110
open: seven days (usually)
10.00 am – 3.00 pm, or by appointment; please phone before visiting
www.warwyn.tas.gov.au