

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TASMANIAN HISTORICAL RESEARCH  
ASSOCIATION HELD IN THE ROYAL SOCIETY ROOM, TASMANIAN MUSEUM  
AND ART GALLERY, ON TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2014.**

Present: The President, Caroline Homer, in the chair and about 85 members and guests.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and approved.

Business: The President remarked that Dr Goc's exhibition illustrative of the talk she presented in May, now was on display at the University, and very interesting.

Speaker: The President introduced Guy Green who was to present this year's 'A Tasmanian Life' address. Sir Guy began by complimenting the Association on its contribution to Tasmanian affairs. His presentation would stress public rather than private matters, and with awareness that this was a story 'so far': his 'Tasmanian Life' yet continued.

Born in 1937, the young Guy Green attended Launceston Church Grammar School, proud to be the oldest such institution in Australia. At its centenary celebrations he had contact with Governor Sir Hugh Binney and his Lady. The school was not stultified by its past, and gave a solid general education. Guy's father was editor of the *Saturday Evening Express*, and he recalled journalists' socialising and the power of linotype machines. War-time memories evoked slit trenches, ration books, and the Tiger Moths used to train RAAF pilots at Western Junction. Already the schoolboy had determined on a career in the law, having been much impressed when attending a local sitting of the Supreme Court. Accordingly in 1955 Sir Guy began the LLB course at the University of Tasmania. He also 'majored' in Philosophy, from which study he gained much, despite the dark shadow of the Orr case. Small classes; makeshift accommodation; dances, examinations, and lively debates--all associated with Philip Smith Hall—were other student memories. Later associations with the University included meeting one TA Scott, a student of the 1890s, and the opening of the Observatory at Cambridge. Sir Guy was Chancellor of the University when achieving amalgamation with the College of Advanced Education, the very deliberation of the process (in the face of federal authorities' desire for haste) enabling ultimate success.

After graduation Sir Guy entered practice and became a Magistrate in 1971, and two years later a youthful Chief Justice. All other judges had been his earlier mentors. In 1976 the Court reached its sesquicentenary. Almost simultaneously so did that of New South Wales; Sir Guy attended celebrations of the latter event, discountenancing Chief Justice John Kerr by telling that Tasmania's court was a week older of the two. Soon afterwards began relocation of Hobart's law courts to Salamanca Place, entailing destruction of some old warehouses but replacing them with buildings that duly won acclaim. As judge Sir Guy had had to hear an extremely broad range of issues, but always found satisfaction in pertinent research and, through his judgments, giving reinforcement to social values and protecting rights. A paper he wrote in support of judicial independence had achieved international citation.

As Chief Justice, Sir Guy had frequently to act in stead of the Governor, and so was well prepared duly to fill that office from 1995. He never accepted that the Executive Council was unquestioningly supreme over the Governor, instead maintaining that it must proceed according to law. The broader role of the Governor co-existed with the whole of life of Tasmania. Among Sir Guy's concerns were extending the number of ambassadorial visits to the State and encouragement of links with Antarctica, the latter entailing a memorable visit to Macquarie Island. Apropos the Republican debate he insisted that the decisive voice in the outcome must be State, not federal, authority. Sir Guy delivered some 1100 speeches as Governor, many on recondite topics. In 2003, as senior State Governor, he filled the place left vacant by the 'stepping-down' of Sir Peter Hollingsworth as Governor-General; the situation was complex and demanding. Since ceasing to be Governor in 2003 Sir Guy's interests had included the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Ten Days on the Island, and fostering links with China. He ended his address by remarking that Tasmania's civic and cultural qualities merited such appreciation as more frequently celebrated its physical beauty.

The President thanked the Speaker for his splendid address, and the meeting closed at 9:10pm.  
Caroline Homer, PresidentMichael Roe for Secretary