

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TASMANIAN HISTORICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, HELD IN THE ROYAL SOCIETY ROOM, TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY, ON TUESDAY 11 May 2010

Present: The president, Caroline Homer, in the chair and about 60 members and friends.

Minutes: The minutes of the April meeting were read and accepted.

The president reported with sadness the death of member and committee member Margaret Kent, and announced a number of forthcoming talks.

The president introduced Julie Gough, who spoke on the topic, 'Manuscript 3251: the interrelations of Norfolk Plains 1820-1840s. Depositions across race, class, gender.' Julie had found this manuscript in the National Library of Australia, part of a nine-volume larger manuscript which mostly deals with bushrangers. However, 18,000 words comprise a collection of manuscripts mostly from northern Van Diemen's Land, describing many events which took place in the Norfolk Plains area. Julie transcribed this and made it available online. Many thousands of names are included.

Julie gave many instances of stories related in the manuscript, which are without context, prelude or conclusion. Many deal with Aboriginal people, and show them living bicultural lives, as part of an Aboriginal people but also living in the white community. They illustrate the crowded and co-existent lives of Aboriginal and white people, and the complexity of the frontier. Julie illustrated her talk with many examples of transcriptions, the original manuscript, maps and newspaper articles.

The president thanked Julie and invited those present to supper.

Alison Alexander for Secretary