

# THRA

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## TASMANIAN HISTORICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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## NEWSLETTER NO. 122

*December 2024*

## MEETING CALENDAR 2025

<b>11 February</b>	<b>Richie Woolley</b> Some Recherche Bay archaeology and its historical context
<b>11 March</b>	<b>Kevin Todd</b> The Wreck of the <i>Neva</i> , uncovering the cover-up
<b>8 April</b>	<b>Bob Brown</b> A Tasmanian Life
<b>13 May</b>	<b>Penny Russell: Eldershaw Memorial Lecture</b> Family archives, feminist readings
<b>10 June</b>	<b>Keith Corbett</b> Rocks and people in the story of geology in Tasmania
<b>8 July</b>	<b>Michael Stoddart</b> Tasmania's southern horizon: exploration, whaling, science, diplomacy
<b>12 August</b>	<b>Theresa Sainty</b> Interpreting Palawa Ngini voices from the past through colonial documents: Staying faithful to culturally embedded meaning
<b>9 September</b>	<b>Imogen Wegman</b> Edward Ford Bromley's disappearing New Town
<b>14 October</b>	<b>Alan Townsend</b> Scandal & Graft: the outrageous career of George Duffield
<b>11 November</b>	<b>Jody Steele</b> Public history and interpretation
<b>9 December</b>	<b>John Dent</b> Launceston: the first twenty years

### EXCURSION: THIS TOO SHALL PASS

About 30 members and friends attended the TMAG portraits gallery to hear a talk by Dr Mary Knights, Senior Curator of Art at TMAG on the exhibition 'This too shall pass', TMAG exhibition of portraits – from colonial to contemporary. Held inside the exhibition gallery and facing a solid wall of portraits of the famous and not-so-famous, Dr Knights gave an explanation of the origin of the exhibition title 'This too shall pass' drawing on the story of several of the works in the gallery, and their artists. THRA thanks Dr Knights for her time and effort in hosting us.

## NEW and RETURNING MEMBERS

May Adams of Kingston Beach  
Carol Bacon of Fern Tree  
Lisa Charleston of Lower Snug  
Geoffrey Counsell of Riverside  
Samuel Diprose Adams  
Adrian Jeffreys of The Gap, Queensland  
Andrea McMahon of Moonah  
Vicky Nagy of Kingston  
Katie Porteous of Kingston

Megan Sheard of Rosny  
Tiffany Shellam of Northcote, Victoria  
Jody Steele of Murdunna  
Stephanie Thrower of Windsor, Queensland  
Willem van Dorsselaer of New Town (*winner of the Michael Roe History Prize*)  
Geoff Walsh of Mount Eliza, Victoria  
Suzanne Wyatt of Seven Mile Beach  
East Gippsland Family History Group Inc



## EXCURSION: BEFORE THE BREWERY

On 23 November, member **Martin Stone** took a group on a fascinating tour entitled 'Before the Brewery'. The Cascade Brewery is celebrating its bicentenary this year, but the brewery didn't open until 1832. What was operating before then was a flour mill and a sawmill, and Martin showed us the remnants of these, and their water supply.

Martin is an excellent speaker and it was a most interesting tour, walking through the bush along the path of a two-hundred-year-old flume, seeing the dams Peter Degraeves built to outwit the government and seize Hobart's water for himself.

This tour attracted a lot of interest and we will be running a repeat early in 2025.

## PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS

This issue of THRA publishes papers given at the various history events at the **Richmond Bicentenary** in January 2024. They have a different emphasis from our usual papers and are well worth reading.

## MICHAEL ROE PRIZE IN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

The THRA Committee would like to congratulate **Mr Willem Van Dorssalaer** who has been awarded the *Michael Roe Prize in Australian History* in 2024.

As per the prize criteria, Willem had the greatest achievement in the UTAS unit *Australian History in a Global Context* in 2024, earning a grade of Distinction or higher in Semester 1 this year.

This prize was first established by the Tasmanian Historical Research Association (THRA) in 1957, with the value of 5 guineas towards books. In 2024 THRA continues to offer this prize to budding historians, now in honour of the Association's long-time member, contributor and Patron, Michael Roe. The prize is valued at \$500 and includes a 12-month membership of the Tasmanian Historical Research Association.



## MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The THRA Committee thanks all members for your contributions to our Association in 2024: this year we have enjoyed some marvellous excursions and excellent conversations at our Tuesday meetings. We hope you find your Christmas Eve less shrill than this correspondent to the Launceston *Daily Telegraph* in 1907:

*The people of Launceston become very familiar on the night of Christmas eve with the sounds emitted by those instruments of auricular torture which are dear to the hearts of children... Every child who had a penny to speculate or who could succeed in cajoling a kind father or an indulgent mother to invest, sported some ear-splitting contrivance, and constituted himself a soloist. Their range of notes, however, was very limited, and hence the musical programme very soon became monotonous. It was Christmas eve, though, and being the season of peace on earth and goodwill to all men, it would almost amount to a sin to cavil at anything which tends to gladden the hearts of either old or young.*

We wish everyone a restful summer's break, and we look forward to seeing you when we reconvene on 11 February.