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**SOUTH HOBART
PROGRESS
ASSOCIATION**

President: Mr. Phillip Hoysted

(Incorporating Cascades Progress Association)
Founded 1922

Hon. Secretary: Mr. David Halse Rogers

PO Box 200 South Hobart Tasmania 7004

www.southhobart.org.au

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No. 390 February 2021

ABN 65 850 310 318

SHPA GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting of the Association will be held on **Wednesday 10th February, 2021 at 7:30 pm** in the newly renovated *South Hobart Community Centre*, 42 D'Arcy Street, South Hobart. All residents, especially those new to the Suburb, are welcome to attend.

SOUTH HOBART LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

This Group meets monthly on Tuesday afternoons (2 pm - 4 pm). All residents are invited to attend meetings, which are held at the *South Hobart Community Centre* 42 D'Arcy Street. You are welcome to participate in the research being undertaken or to seek answers to any questions you may have on the varied local history of South Hobart. [The next monthly meetings will be held on Tuesday 9th February & 9th March.] Enquires to Kevin Wilson **6223 1687**.

SOHO BLOCK PARTY

Saturday 12th December 4-8 pm

Whilst the *South Hobart Block Party* is a receding memory for most of us, it is worth recording the community's thanks to the *City of Hobart* for organising such a wonderful family event which celebrated the Spirit of Christmas. From reliable sources, this Party was the most successful of all the events held by the Council this year to replace the more usual Christmas Pageant and carols. The highlight of the event, for many, was the Nativity Play, performed by a multi-national cast, which included: Robert (assembly & editing); Dana writer & narrator); Jose (Silvino-Brazil); King Gaspar (Atul-India); King Melchor (Janito-Chile); King Balthazar (Ivan-Columbia); Shepherd woman (Juliana-Colombia); Pastorcito (Mauricio-Colombia); Aboriginal musician (Sergio Arias-Colombia); and Maria (Dana-Colombia) our beautiful Virgin Mary. It was a lavish production with sumptuous costuming and an eclectic sound track, which concluded with a rousing rendition of José Feliciano's "Feliz Navidad" (Merry Christmas). The highlight of the evening's performance was the appearance and the voice of the Angel Gabriel, performed by four-year old Sophie

SOUTH HOBART COMMUNITY CENTRE

42 D'Arcy Street, South Hobart
Enquiries to Bookings Manager
Emma Gunn
bookings@southhobart.org.au

Celeste Campbell Smith (daughter of Dana & Robert), dressed in a beautiful, ethereal costume complete with diaphanous wings!

MORE PEOPLE-FRIENDLY

From February 2021, speed limits in the Hobart CBD will be reduced to 40km/h to create a safer environment. This brings us into line with most Australian capital cities, which became 40km/h zones several years ago. Council has also signed off on plans to upgrade and beautify a three block section of Elizabeth Street (between Melville and Warwick Streets) to be known as 'Midtown'. It's become a much busier place in recent years, with many more restaurants, shops, students and visitors. The Plan includes wider footpaths, more plants and trees, new paving, street furniture and public art, and an uphill bicycle lane. See the plans at: yoursay.hobartcity.com.au/midtown. These plans hark back to the Jan Gehl vision for Hobart, which identified Elizabeth Street as one of our most interesting and eclectic streets for people to experience. Midtown has potential to be one of Australia's best high streets. Due to COVID-19 budget cuts, Council does not yet have the funds to proceed, but it's important to agree on the Plans first. [Anna Reynolds. Lord Mayor.]

VALE BETTY JONES

Betty Jones, a long-time resident of "Four Oaks" in Davey Street and latterly North Hobart, died recently at the age of 92. She had a long association with South Hobart as well as the SHPA. The wife of Dr. Harry Jones, she raised a family of six children. In her later years, Betty was a prolific writer of many a pithy letter to the Editor of *The Mercury*. Her last letter to the Editor was on 27th December, 2020. She will be missed all those who knew her.

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has been providing assistance to some of our older citizens with many around-the-house tasks that some thought unaffordable. From jamming doors to timber restoration; internal & external paintwork; paving and deck restoration; garden work; minor landscaping to outdoor construction of all types, Paul's your man!

FROM THE SHADOWS

On Tuesday 16th February, 2021 Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, A.C. Governor of Tasmania, will unveil one of the remarkable female convict statues by renowned Irish sculptor, Rowan Gillespie. The site for this sculpture is opposite the *Cascades Female Factory Historic Site* in Degraeves Street. The statues, when all are installed, will create a significant heritage tourism route linking sites integral to the convict story - the Hobart waterfront, the Cascades Female Factory and the Orphan Schools at New Town. 13,000 convict women, together with more than 2,000 of their free children, arrived in *Van Diemen's Land* from 1803 to 1853. On arrival, the women were sent to the *Cascades Female Factory* or a similar institution, and their children were taken from them and sent to the bleak and miserable Orphan Schools at New Town. In all, nearly 6,000 children, mostly the children of convicts, were admitted to the Orphan Schools from 1828 to 1879. For many women sentenced to transportation to *Van Diemen's Land*, their anguish at being forced to leave the country of their birth and undergo a sea voyage of over 12,000 miles to a strange land can only be imagined. Children have always been part of the convict story, if not always a visible one. While they were serving their sentences, the women were powerless to keep their children with them. For many of these children, their formative years were spent in a range of austere institutions. In the Colony, families were fragmented as a result of death, desertion and rigid rules and regulations. Mothers and children lost contact with each other; many were not re-united. Many of the children disappeared from the records once

they were released from the Orphan Schools. "These sculptures, let us remind ourselves, also make common cause with the suffering of migrants in our times. They should remind us that the trauma of displacement and forced exile are not experiences confined to our past, but are the lived experience of millions around the World today, including many who now call *Australia home*". [Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland, Hobart 2017.]

BUSHFIRE READINESS

Nearby Safer Places (NSP)

In the event of fire, a Nearby Safer Place is somewhere you should be able to reach quickly and safely, and then gives shelter from radiant heat. However, using NSPs is not without risk. They are a last resort, not your only option. In South Hobart, delegated NSPs include South Hobart Primary School Oval, D'Arcy Street Recreation Ground and SoHo Arts car park (formerly Macquarie Street State School). Get your free *Bushfire Survival Plan & Bushfire Prepare to Survive* booklet & DVD by contacting *Tasmania Fire Service*.
www.fire.tas.gov.au/1800_000_699.

MAY 2018 FLASH FLOODS

The South Hobart Local History Group of the Association is researching the impact the May 2018 floods had on South Hobart. Much technical information has been provided by the *City of Hobart*, but there is little record of the experiences of residents. If you think you can provide a summary of your experience during this extreme weather event, please contact **Kevin Wilson** on **6223 1687** or provide a written item to the *South Hobart Post Office* [PO Box 200].

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Contributions are welcome and should be forwarded to the Newsletter Editor: dhalsrogers@gmail.com or to PO Box 200 South Hobart 7004 by the first Monday of each month.

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