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PROGRESS
ASSOCIATION**

(Incorporating Cascades Progress Association)

Founded 1922

President: Mr. David Day Honorary Secretary: Ms Elisabeth Rees
PO Box 200 South Hobart Tasmania 7004 ABN 65 850 310 318www.southhobart.org.au office@southhobart.org.au**THE SOUTH HOBART
PROGRESS ASSOCIATION**

The next meeting of the Association will be held on Wednesday 12th August 2026 at 7:30 pm in the *South Hobart Community Centre*, 42 D'Arcy Street, South Hobart. All are welcome to attend, especially any new residents.

BUSHCARE WORKING BEES

The Rivulet Group will meet on Sunday, 9th August, 2:00pm to 4:30pm, meeting at the Tara Street picnic area, South Hobart and **The South Hobart Group** will meet on Sunday, 16th August, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm, meeting at the Hobart Rivulet, at the bridge behind the Brewery silos. All equipment is provided - Any enquiries to John (Rivulet) on **0417 617 572** and Janet (South Hobart) on **6223 8132**.

NOTABLE LOCALS

John Skinner Prout was born on 19th December, 1805 in Plymouth, Devon, England. He was the eldest child of John Prout and Maria Skinner. Although his uncle, Samuel Prout was a prominent English watercolourist, Skinner Prout was largely self-trained. His earliest known lithograph was published in Penzance in 1827.

Prout married Maria Heathilla, who was a musician and painter, on 19th June, 1828. They had eleven children; six daughters (Matilda, Anna Maria, Rosa Heathilla, Agnes, Mary Frederika and Amy) and five sons (Frederick, Victor Albert, Edwin, Edgar and Mark). On 3rd December, 1838, in London, Prout was elected a member of the New Society of Painters in Water Colours.

Hoping to improve his fortunes, Prout emigrated to Australia with wife and eight children, arriving in Sydney on the fourteenth of December 1840. Amongst the possessions that he brought with him to the colony of New South Wales was a lithographic press, which enabled him to set up the 'J. S. Prout and Co. Australian Lithographic Establishment.'

In the first four years of his residence in Sydney, between 1840 and 1844, Prout undertook a number of sketching tours in the districts around Sydney. Prout followed the route of many artists of the period, journeying west across the Blue Mountains towards Bathurst, south to Broulee and the Illawarra District, and north to Newcastle and Port Stephens. Returning from

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COMMUNITY CENTRE**42 D'Arcy Street, South Hobart
All enquiries to Bookings Manager

Emma Gunn

www.southhobart.org.au

these travels, Prout would work up his sketches into finished works in lithographs, watercolour and oil paint for sale. Whilst Prout was a resident in Sydney, he held exhibitions and presented lectures on the technique of drawing and painting in watercolour.

His original watercolours sold well and he produced a series of lithographic views of the Colony, a number of which were in the 1842 publication *Sydney Illustrated*. But due to the lacklustre market for his lithographs, competition by more established artists, such as Conrad Martens, and the depressed economic circumstances of Sydney during the 1840s, Prout and his family moved once more. After a visit to the colony of Van Diemen's Land in January he arrived with his family in April 1844. Here, Prout was more successful, drawing the patronage of the Governor, Sir John Franklin and his wife and held his first exhibition there in 1845.

The Prout family lived at "Burlingham" 328 Macquarie Street, which was razed to make way for the Southern Outlet in the '60s. It was next door to the current Macquarie Animal Hospital.

Prout produced the first coloured lithograph (of *Wellington Falls*) to be produced in Australia. His best-known works produced in Tasmania were numerous landscapes, and portraits of Tasmanian Aborigines and Maori convicts.

Prout returned to England in June 1848, living in Bristol and London. Upon his return, at the Western Literary and Scientific Institution, Leicester Square, he exhibited his work on life in the Australian colonies, and lectured on convicts, bushrangers and Aborigines. In the 1850s, he produced illustrated handbooks detailing his travels in Australia. Among them *An illustrated handbook of the voyage to Australia and a visit to the gold fields* [1852] and *A Magical Trip to the Gold Regions* [1853]. These publications have raised the question as to whether Prout returned to Australia, as he claimed the sketches for the illustrated volumes were made on site in 1852.



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Prout died at Kentish Town, London, on 29th August, 1876 and was buried in a family grave on the eastern side of *Highgate Cemetery*.

John Skinner Prout was one of the most talented artists to work in colonial Australia. His landscapes were focused on capturing picturesque views and exploring the effects of light and colour, rather than striving for topographical accuracy. His work influenced several colonial artists, including Conrad Martens in New South Wales and Francis Simpkinson in Tasmania.

For more information www.southhobart.org.au/resources [ASHN No. 285 Jul 2011]. Also see "Beneath the Mountain: A History of South Hobart" p. 62.

LANDCARE IN SOUTH HOBART – THE STORY CONTINUES

Dr. Rosemary Sandford's recent article highlighted an important chapter in South Hobart's environmental history. Long before our own Wellesley Park became one of Australia's first urban Landcare projects, the lands and waterways of South Hobart were cared for by the muwinina people, the traditional custodians of this Country. Their enduring relationship with Country reminds us that caring for the places that sustain us stretches back thousands of years. More recently, local residents came together to restore the badly eroded slopes above Wellesley Park through revegetation with native species. Nearly four decades later, that legacy is all around us. The regenerated bushland of Wellesley Park, the restoration of Knocklofty Reserve and the health of many of Hobart's waterways did not happen by chance. They reflect decades of work by volunteers, community groups, the City of Hobart and many others committed to caring for the places we love. South Hobart Landcare is also part of something much bigger.

Across Tasmania, more than 270 Landcare, Bushcare, Coastcare and environmental volunteer groups are restoring landscapes, sharing local knowledge, connecting neighbours and strengthening communities. As these groups grew, volunteers recognised the need for a shared support network. This led to the formation of the Tasmanian Landcare Association in 1994, now Landcare Tasmania, the State's peak body for community Landcare. It provides the community infrastructure that helps local groups succeed through grants, insurance, training and governance support. South Hobart remains closely connected to this state-wide movement. Landcare Tasmania's CEO, Board Chair and several staff live locally, while one of our local group convenors represents community groups on Landcare Tasmania's Members Council. The story continues as new generations build on these foundations. So next time you walk through Wellesley Park, Knocklofty or along a local rivulet, remember these places look as they do because people cared enough to act. Whether by joining a local group, volunteering, planting local native species, donating or making more sustainable choices at home, we can all play a part. After all, we do not simply inherit healthy landscapes from previous generations, we hold them in trust for those yet to come. To learn more, find your local group or support community-led conservation, visit www.landcaretas.org.au.

Peter Stronach, CEO Landcare Tasmania Inc.

FORREST'S HOUSE

Did anyone figure out the location of Haughton Forrest's house in South Hobart? It still stands at 3 Apsley Street. The number would have been different in his day. His work was not fashionable for a long time and could be picked up for only a few dollars. Try that now!



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