



President: Rosemary Sandford

Hon. Secretary: David Halse Rogers

**Minutes of a General Meeting held at The D'Arcy Street Community Hall
on Wednesday 9th April, 2014 at 7:30 pm.**

Chair: Dr. Rosemary Sandford.

Present: Pru Bonham, Lindsay Brinsdon, David Halse Rogers, Elizabeth Green, Rosemary Sandford, Malcolm Saltmarsh, Margaret Wilmot, and Kevin Wilson.

Apologies: Nine (9) members as per *Attendance Register*.

Minutes of February 2014 Meeting: Having been previously distributed by email, the Minutes were taken as read. The Minutes were duly approved. [Moved: Phil Brown; Seconded: Pru Bonham; Passed.]

“Footsteps towards Freedom” Presentation:

Standing Orders were suspended to enable the Meeting to be addressed by Prof. Lucy Frost (President, Female Convicts Research Centre Inc.)

A working party, which includes John Kelly (*State Cinema*), Jo Lyngcoln and Carol Edwards, has been established to investigate the possibility of creating an **interactive sculpture installation**, similar to Dublin's famous 'Famine Statues' which line the *River Liffey*. The aim of the Sculpture Trail would be to encourage tourists and locals alike to think about female convictism. The Trail would eventually lead from the wharves, where the women disembarked after their voyage from England, along the route taken up Macquarie Street (and, perhaps, the *Hobart Rivulet*) to the *Cascades Female Factory*. At this stage, a business plan and a website have been created. The Group is applying for funding through the *Tasmanian Community Fund* to provide monies to enable the design of suitable statues. Expressions of interest to gain artistic ideas from artists and sculptors are to be called. The project is supported by the *Hobart City Council*. A working party of two leading Tasmanian artists has been established to adjudicate. The successful artists will each receive \$3,000. Prof. Frost thanked the Association for its support and the letter to the Tas Grant. There will be a fund raising event to be held at the *State Cinema* soon.

Business arising from the Minutes:

1. Macquarie Street State School Update: Jim Walker from *Simmons Wolfhagen*, a South Hobart resident has agreed to provide legal advice, *pro bono*, on the best governance structure for the *South Hobart Living Arts Centre*. At this stage, he has recommended a company limited by guarantee as the most suitable model. There would be seven or eight board members, with the Association holding two of these positions.

2. A History of South Hobart Project: Alison Alexander has provided some *vignettes* for publication in the Newsletter to keep the book project before the local community. Alison has finished the section up to 1939. Alison is delighted and astonished with Kevin Wilson's wealth of detailed information on South Hobart. A discussion ensued as to how best to preserve these records.

3. Commonwealth Community Grants Programme 2014: Discussion centred on the possibility of using such funding to digitise back issues of *A South Hobart Newsletter*. Andrew Wilkie's staff have offered to help prepare a submission. Closing date for applications is Friday 2nd May, 2014.

4. The Mutual Party: the meeting determined to invite Ald. Leo Foley to address the Association at a date to be determined.

5. Islington Private Hotel Change of Use to Unlisted Use (Guest House): Hot on the heels of a withdrawal from the RMPAT process, the owners of *Islington* have (yet again!) lodged another application with Council for a change on use to: Unlisted Use (Guest House). The intent of this new application can only be to attempt to circumvent the conditions which have applied to Islington's use since 2004. Specifically, Condition 15 of DA 04-00366-01 states "that the accommodation and its facilities are to be restricted to resident house guests only". [The consensus among local residents is that this is a last ditch move to alter the property's status before the enactment of the new Draft Hobart Planning Scheme comes into effect. Under the new scheme, any such use would be prohibited.]

6. Application for new front fence 341 Davey Street: There are concerns that the design for a new front fence at "Four Oaks" is somewhat at odds with the desired future characteristics for fencing as listed in the Heritage Schedule of the CHPS, 1982. The HCC's Senior Cultural Heritage Officer, Mr. Brendan Lennard, will be consulted.

7. Burlingham Interpretation Panel on Broadley's Corner: Lindsay Brinsdon reported back on discussions he has had with the HCC's Rebecca Doublo regarding a site visit to establish a suitable location for the Interpretation Panel. A meeting was arranged for Tuesday 15th April, 2014 at 1:30 pm. KW, KG, DHR, RS, MS, LB and Peter Bock will attend.

8. South Hobart (McRobie's Road) Tip: Pru Bonham directed the meeting's attention to a report in *The Mercury* (July 2013) discussing the Waste Transfer Station.

9. Child Care Centre DA Proposal – Degraeves Street: There is concern - both from local residents and from staff at the World Heritage-listed *Cascades Female Factory Historic Site* – at the possibility of a child care centre being established in the former non-conformist Church. Issues raised include increased traffic noise and volume, parking and damage to the convict site both from vibration and by vehicular impact with the stone walls. The CFFHS is also concerned that the sound of a large number of children will detract from the historic presentations being undertaken in Yard 1.

10. HCC Community Forums: KW reported that these *fora* were to be postponed to a date to be set.

11. HCC Bushfire Management Strategy 2014: KW also drew member's attention to the website. Kevin will analyse the information to see whether the Association needs to respond. Item for May Newsletter.

12. HCC Draft Strategic Plan: KW has spoken to Nick Heath, the HCC General Manager about certain issues.

Treasurer's Report:

The Association is in a strong financial position, especially now that the cost of printing the monthly newsletter (\$347.16) is now being met courtesy of the Hon. Robert Valentine. To express our gratitude, the Association has made available an advertising space 'free of charge'. The interest rate from *MyState Financial* of 3.5% is, whilst low, the best available at present. The Treasurer reported that the Association has 122 members of whom 72 are life members.

Correspondence:

In:

- HCC
- CFFHS (Greta MacDonald) Minutes
- Advertising enquiries 5 emails

Out:

- Lemon Pie Design Various emails
- HCC Various

Other Business:

1. Cuthbertson's Tannery (39 Weld/62 Wynyard Streets) Plans: The outcome of the HCC's archaeological 'dig' has been completed. The wall on the lower side of the land has been identified as having some significance for the Site. Given the concern expressed at the last meeting regarding the scope of the current demolition work on the Tannery land, it has been decided to approach Kevin Green to write an article on the 'Hurse Estate' to appear in the May issue of *A South Hobart Newsletter*.

2. **Subdivision on Stoney Steps Road:** Leave on Agenda.
3. **Mt. Wellington Cableway Company:** Leave on Agenda.
4. **Resurfacing of Macquarie Street: (Antill to Molle Streets).** Some disruptions are to be expected when Council attempts to smooth the road surface.
5. **Adelaide Street Roundabout and Resurfacing:** The HCC works crews are to be commended for the professionalism shown during these lengthy roadworks. Adelaide Street between Weld and Anglesea Streets is now the best surfaced road in Hobart! It will be interesting to see whether four wheel drive vehicle owners get the knack of driving around the 'circle' rather than straight over it.
6. **Lower D'Arcy Street Roundabout:** Congestion in Congress Street is being caused by problems with the traffic flow. DEIR and HCC cannot see an alternative pattern being feasible.
7. **CHCA Seating around South Hobart:** KW raised the issue of public seating in the suburb, especially as there are an increasing number of elderly and infirm moving into the area. There is a need for pedestrian-friendly areas separate from cyclists. Vacluse Gardens Retirement Village and the Council for the Aged may need to be involved in any future discussions on the issue.
8. **Proposed New State-wide Planning Scheme:** The former 'face' of *Tasmanians for Reform*, Mary Masima, has been employed to oversee a possible implementation of a state-wide 'one-hat-fits-all' planning scheme. Worries were expressed that the minister of the day will be given draconian powers to intervene.
9. **HCC Volunteers Recognition Function:** The Council will be holding a function to recognise community volunteers at the *Hobart Town Hall* on Wednesday 14th May between 6:00 – 7:00 pm.

Background:

Brighton Mayor, Tony Foster, has challenged the *Tasmanians for Reform Group* to clearly demonstrate how council rates would be reduced through amalgamation.

Councillor Foster said the claim by the Group, driven by the vested interests of the **Property Council of Australia**, of a 35 per cent reduction in rates was an absolute sham and not even supported by its own *Deloitte Access Economics* report. He said the most recent experience in Queensland showed the opposite was the case. The costs of amalgamation, higher salaries and expenses had driven up rates by more than 18 per cent in one Queensland municipality. Advice from one of Australia's foremost experts on local government reform, Professor Brian Dollery, director of the Centre for Local Government at the *University of New England*, was that recent amalgamations in Queensland and elsewhere in Australia, had actually resulted in increased costs for ratepayers and rising rates. The costs of recent council amalgamations in Queensland had reached \$184.7 million. In the amalgamation in Moreton Bay on Brisbane's outskirts, rate equalisation meant that some ratepayers faced increases of 18.1 per cent.

Cr. Foster said rate equalisation in the proposed greater Hobart council would result in Brighton's rates rising by a massive 40 per cent. "This is unacceptable and I am disappointed to see an organisation like TasCOSS join in a campaign that clearly would harm some of the most disadvantaged people in our community," he said. Cr. Foster said councils were already able to achieve efficiencies through shared services and purchasing and many were doing this.

"The Property Council's campaign is being driven by the vested interests of the property barons who foolishly believe they will get rate reductions on their big office blocks in Hobart, and they've captured others on a false promise of 35 per cent savings," he said.
[Source: *The Mercury* 12th March, 2012.]

Meeting closed: 8:56 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 14th May, 2014 at 7:30 pm.