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No. 212 November 2004

ABN 65 850 310 318

NEXT SHPA MEETING

The last meeting of the SHPA for 2004 will be held on **Wednesday 10th November, 2004 at 8.00 pm** in *The South Hobart Community Centre*, 42 D'Arcy Street, South Hobart. All Welcome.

SOUTH HOBART FISH SHOP

Readers of *The Mercury* will have read that Mr. & Mrs. Ali, who owned *The South Hobart Fish Shop*, have given up the shop and have moved away, following a robbery at gunpoint. The couple and their baby daughter were confronted in the shop by a 16 year-old with a .22 rifle in July this year. The youth was captured when Mr. Ali saw someone he thought might have committed the robbery walking past the shop whilst talking to police. In the Supreme Court recently, the offender pleaded guilty to the armed robbery. The Association, on behalf of all residents - and especially those who have patronised the *South Hobart Fish Shop* - wishes to express its sympathy, support and concern for the Ali family.

STH HBT PRIMARY SCHOOL RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

The students of *South Hobart Primary School* are to be congratulated on the many and varied successes achieved in the last month. For instance, Grade 2/3 students were placed 1st in their age group for verse speaking at both Clarence and Hobart Eisteddfods! In the *World of Trivia Competition* (to raise money for Muscular Dystrophy) all four teams made top ten in the State: Year 3 in 5th place; Year 4 in 3rd place; and Year 6 in 2nd place. Students also participated with commitment and skill at the "Celebration of Language Concert" involving students from Hartz District, were involved in the *Australian Mathematics Competition*, and have made a wonderful contribution to the *Female Factory Muster* to be held on 7th November. [Laura Boon, President SHPS Parents & Friends.]

MEMORIES OF THE '67

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BUSHFIRES

People arising from their beds on Tuesday 7th February, 1967 to get children ready for the first day of the school year were met with the headline in *The Mercury*: BUSHFIRE MENACES STATE- DANGER TODAY COULD BE CRITICAL. How prophetic. The paper further reported that there had been no substantial rainfall in Hobart for 16 days, and that there had been some small fires burning in the *Turnip Fields* area. Meanwhile, fires had been reported in various districts. At 3:45 am a fire had broken out at Neika (Fern Tree) and, shortly after, the brigade was called to a fire near the corner of the Huon Road and Strickland Avenue. There had been a call to a fire in Strickland Avenue at 4:20 am. Further calls to this area continued and at 7:40 am there were three fire fighting units in the area. Eventually, there were five units in the area cut off from the city by fire. By midday, the general public became aware of the extent of the fires as the CBD became enveloped in smoke. People left their work, often on the advice of concerned family or neighbours to return home. Many joined bands of volunteers trying to protect life and property. In many cases, fire fighting was hampered by the lack of water. The highest official temperature of the day was 39°C with very low humidity and winds in excess of 50 knots - ideal conditions for the spread of fire. A change of direction by mid-afternoon gave fire fighters some relief. By evening, staff at the *Royal Hobart Hospital* reported that it was almost possible to work without artificial lighting; the whole mountain seemed to be ablaze. History now tells us what was happening in many parts of Southern Tasmania. Many people have stories

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of their experiences: lost children, lost homes and lost property, death and injuries. Official reports and personal anecdotes give descriptive accounts of the impact of the fires on South Hobart. Fifteen people, resident in South Hobart, died in the fires or from injuries sustained. There were over 50 houses lost in Strickland Avenue, including the Community Hall. Many more were lost in the Marlyn Road area, and in McRobies and Hillborough Road. Some houses were also lost in built-up areas such as Wentworth Street and even Davey Street where Lindfield was destroyed. [The owners of Lindfield suffered as cruelly from their fellow man as they did from the fire: having rescued much of their antique furniture and personal belongings from the building before the flames took hold, they returned latter in the day to find that looters had removed the lot from the front garden where it had been hurriedly placed out of harms way.] Many heritage buildings, including Cascade Brewery, the Baptist Church in Macquarie Street (now part of Collegiate School), and the colonial Gore Street Mill were destroyed. [This item is prepared principally for the information of newcomers to our suburb who may not be aware of this disastrous event. It is also a reminder to us all, but particularly those living in bushland parts of the suburb, that we should take all preventative measures to avoid any recurrence of the fateful events of '67 in the coming summer.]

STREETSCAPE COMPETITION

The SHPA Streetscape Competition is on again. It is open to all residents who have completed improvements to their properties - be it renovations or restoration work to buildings, fences or gardens. To nominate, just send a "before" photo to The Judging Panel PO Box 200 South Hobart 7004 with details of the works and include your name, address and telephone number. You can nominate your own property or that of a neighbour or friend.

SHPA MEMBERSHIP 2004/5

Membership renewal fell due at the beginning of July. The cost of membership is still only \$2. Remember that members get free admission to our annual Bonfire & Fireworks Night in May each year. Whilst the monies realised from memberships is not crucial to the viability of the Association, the number of fully paid up members helps establish our credibility when dealing with government organisations and instrumentalities.

WELLINGTON GALLERY

190 Strickland Avenue

The Gallery, in the foothills of Mt. Wellington, was established in 1976, under the name of Strickland Gallery by Tom and Penny Andersen and now renamed the Wellington Gallery. Over three hundred exhibitions have been held in the spacious viewing areas by local and interstate painters, potters and sculptors. The gallery can be hired by artists on a weekly basis for exhibitions, and works by Tasmanian painters in watercolour, acrylics and oil are always on display. The gallery is open every day between ten a.m. and five p.m. and resident artist Tom Andersen will be on hand to give advice on purchasing for both private and corporate collections. For more information, contact (03)6223 6643.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF STH HBT

The Local History Group is keen to obtain any photographs of South Hobart which provide information as to how the suburb looked in the past. Now's the time to look through your old prints! Please contact Kevin Wilson on 6223 1687.

SOUTH HOBART NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
Next meeting of South Hobart Neighbourhood Watch will be advised. Contact Otto Bitterman on 6223 1465.

A SOUTH HOBART NEWSLETTER is produced and published on a voluntary basis solely as a community service. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that the information contained therein is accurate, no warranty as to such accuracy can be given and any reader who wishes to rely on such information for any purpose whatsoever does so at his/her own risk.

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