

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

December 31, 2017



With much pleasure I present the Annual Report of the Hobart Town (1804) First Settlers Association Inc. The past year has presented some difficulties for the Committee but with co-operation and teamwork, we have again completed a successful year.

Members and friends were saddened by the sudden death of Margaret Long. Margaret contributed much to the HTFSA over many years and was also involved in numerous other Historical groups in Tasmania. Meticulous research and attention to detail was always a priority for Margaret; her friendship and input was highly valued and will be greatly missed by many people. 'Vale Margaret'.

An important event for the year was the launch, in late 2017, of member Reg Watson's book '*Parramatta-Tasmania Colonial Connections*'. The launch, by Elise Archer MHA, was held at Parliament House in Hobart: the two *Forewords* for this publication were written by the President of Hobart Town (1804) First Settlers Association Inc. and the President of Parramatta and District Historical Society – thus highlighting the links between these two early settlements. Congratulations and thanks to Reg for his valuable research and for his acknowledgement of our Association. A copy of this book is now in HTFSA Assn. Library.

Some of the highlights of the past year are:

- **Annual Floral Tribute 2017:** Well attended with representatives of Tasmanian Parliament, Local Government, Police Dept., ADF – Army, Navy & Air-Force, Mission to Seafarers, Anglican Church, local History Groups and representatives of early families.
Guest Speaker Mrs Judy Travers (Dept. Ed – Southern Schools Support) spoke of the way school children participate, learn and appreciate the History of Tasmania, and of the many relevant activities in which students are involved. MILCOLT 'Royal Marines' and Hobart Veterans' Band were all welcome features of the Ceremony. The rousing music drew visitors to the site and favourable comments were received about the atmosphere provided by the Band. This occasion is a highlight in our Calendar and we must continue working to ensure that the Association and the Annual Floral Tribute is viewed by the wider community as providing an important event in the history of Hobart.
- **Meetings and Membership:** Monthly meetings were held on the first Tuesday of each month at the new meeting rooms at Moonah Community Centre. The new site is very convenient, with ample parking (including designated 'disability parking spaces') close to the entrance, storage facilities on-site, ease of access and plenty of room for meetings.
New members have been welcomed during the past year and attendance numbers have been maintained at our meetings. It is essential that new members be encouraged to join the Association – we need to have a membership with a wide range of ages and interests to ensure we maintain the interest and activities that have been enjoyed over many years.
The Committee has decided that an increase in membership subscriptions is now necessary: The Annual Subscription will increase from \$25 to \$30 for the 2018 Financial Year – this decision will be ratified at the AGM.
Currently, we have many unpaid subs. – could you please check if your membership is current; this will assist us greatly to maintain our finances.
- **Guest Speakers at Monthly Meetings** were arranged by Stephany, ably assisted by Maree Ring. A wide range of topics has been covered and we have all increased our knowledge of the history of the state.
- **Outings and Events:** Some interesting and informative excursions have been arranged and all well attended. Please pass on to the incoming committee any suggestions for excursions and outings you would like to assist with organising.

- **Newsletters:** Guy McDougall continues to work with the layout and production of the quarterly Newsletter. Guy also contributes and oversees content on the Assn. *Facebook* page. Stephany and others assist with content and editing of Newsletter – congratulations and thanks to all. With the high cost of postage, it has become essential that we look to increase the number that can be sent electronically – please advise if this is an option for you.

Alastair Douglas OAM continues to maintain HTFS website and to provide valuable advice on compliance issues. Public Officer Michael Seabrook attends to legal compliance and has assisted with financial matters prior to Audit.

Again, we are very grateful for the work of Hon. Auditor, David Baulch. David has made himself available to the committee to discuss and suggest methods of valuation and improved presentation of asset documentation.

Thank you very much Marilla for your work as Treasurer in the early part of the year and to Margaret Lewis, who spends much time with checking names, membership lists and ensuring that all is in order. Much work goes on between meetings with many busy people, like Margaret, working quietly in the background.

Secretary, Stephany Fehre has continued to organize much of the detail for all that keeps our Association running smoothly and that things ‘happen’ as and when required. Stephany also became acting Treasurer when Marilla was not able to continue. Thank you, Stephany, I do appreciate your valuable input, organisation and assistance. David Fehre is always quietly at hand to assist Stephany with arrangements – many thanks to David also.

Due to health concerns Stephany is unable to continue in this role for the coming year, but I am sure that the Assn. has capable members who will step-up and assist. I know that Stephany will maintain her interest and help-out wherever possible.

It is imperative that we elect members to the 2018 Committee who can ably assist the Executive with much of the work – willing helpers are always in demand and ‘many hands make light work’!

Historian, Kath Lonergan spends many hours collating information received for the Historians Report for monthly meetings, answering queries, checking membership application eligibility and ensuring all records are up-to-date and in order. To commemorate the main exodus from Norfolk Island in 1807, Kath has prepared details of each ship that left Norfolk Island bringing those settlers to VDL. ‘*Remembering 210 years Later*’ articles have been presented at meetings and for the Newsletter – thank you Kath; this is interesting reading and much appreciated.

Di Vertigan & Sally Morrisby bring along our delicious morning teas to the meetings and to the willing assistants in the kitchen – ably organized by Kath & Carol Ann. Thank you to Di & Sally for this contribution – the ‘cuppa-and-chat’ after meetings is an important part of the morning and to have the ‘spread’ wonderful that you provide is a very special-extra that we all appreciate.

Members have been supportive and helpful to me personally during my term as President, as well as providing help & encouragement in the many ways that assist us to achieve our aims and objectives as a successful organisation. Thank you one and all – I greatly value your help and co-operation.



Gwen Hardstaff – President