

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023

Last year was a busy one for our Association. In February we had a very wet Floral Tribute witnessed by a small group keen to maintain this important tradition. Speakers during the year gave many varied presentations and I thank Maree Ring for arranging the program as this is a vital focus and drawcard for members.

April sadly saw the passing of our esteemed member and former president Warwick Risby. Warwick was passionate about the Association, and his work reflected that. As a legacy he willed to the Association his collection of "Deepings Dolls". Based on the old tradition of peg dolls these beautifully crafted dolls were commissioned by Warwick and depicted among others the full funeral cordage of Governor Collins. The entire collection has been photographed and archived and is housed at our room at the Davey Street Hobart City Council offices.

Former President Reg Watson also sadly passed during the year. Reg was well known as a historian with a particular interest in Tasmania's military past and was a proud Tasmanian. Reg came from a successful career in journalism and medical reporting. Reg was also passionate about commemorating Tasmania's "forgotten" with veterans from the contingents sent to the Boer War of 1899-1902. In June each year Reg would be found at the Boer War Memorial conducting a memorial service which he instigated. Reg was certainly an interesting character whom I enjoyed engaging with, a person full of passion about what he did.

I would like to thank the input of Beverley Richardson for her work in progressing the updating of our constitution, and also Jane Wilson who together have done an excellent job in seeing this through. They initiated sending copies of the Minutes and Agendas to all members electronically and all members were notified of impending changes to the Constitution to be voted on at the AGM. Also, I would like to thank the support given to them by Alastair Douglas which was invaluable. Very well done to all three. As well, I would like to thank Jane and Beverley for their support in filling the secretarial chair at our general and committee meetings. I thank Charles Hunt for stepping into the Treasurer's role. Our Historian Maree Ring for her work on membership and keeping us up to date with what is happening in the local history community. Many thanks to Di Vertigan, Carol-Ann Hooper and Kath Lonergan for running the monthly meeting morning teas.

I am looking forward to the 2024 year to be one of productivity with the Association library being catalogued and funds on hand to improve the association's technology.

Jonothan Davis
