



CHANNEL Museum



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Museum – Research Room – Gallery – Camera Collection – Café

Governor Visits Channel Museum



Above: from left: Sarah Jackson, Mike Jackson, Judi Castle, the Honourable Barbara Baker, Paula Wriedt, Andrew Tomes, Andrew Wadsley and Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers.

Left: Judi with the Governor Barbara Baker

On the 7th of August, the Governor of Tasmania, the Honourable Barbara Baker, and Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers visited the Channel Museum. They were accompanied by Kingborough Mayor Paula Wriedt and Chief Executive Officer, Dave Stewart. The visit to the Museum had been suggested by the Kingborough Council as part of the Governor's official visit to the Kingborough Municipality.

The visit was hosted by President Judi Castle, Vice President Mike Jackson, Secretary Andrew Tomes, Treasurer Sarah Jackson and committee member Andrew Wadsley.

The party was given a tour of the museum followed by morning tea in the library. This visit provided an excellent opportunity to showcase the Museum and the hard work that our volunteers have done in preparing and maintaining the exhibits as well as the service provided to school groups, the elderly and disadvantaged.

At the conclusion of the visit, President Judi Castle presented the Governor with a medallion of the Channel Heritage and Folk Museum Association founder, Jim Waldie.

The Governor was so impressed with the museum she indicated that a further visit with her family was a possibility, to enable more time to fully experience all the exhibits.

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Kingborough Business Awards

On the 12th of July, the Annual Kingborough Business Awards were held, at a gala dinner hosted by the Kingborough and Huon Business Enterprise Centre. We were surprised and delighted when, in the category of Tourism, Accommodation, Events and Entertainment, the Channel Museum was announced as the winner. This is a testament to our hard-working volunteers and the recognition the museum has in the community.



Committee member, Anthea Wallhead represented the Channel Museum at the award ceremony; the award was presented by Minister Eric Abetz, who co-incidentally is also a member of the Channel Heritage and Folk Museum Association.

The Museum was also presented with a hamper of local produce which is being raffled within the museum volunteer staff.

Andrew Tomes

Left: Anthea receiving the hamper from Minister Abetz..

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Research

Over the past few years, our research volunteers have been putting together files on a range of families and topics, including: Groombridge Family, German Immigrants, Worsley Family, Monte Salvo/Salvatore Inquarez, Longey Family, Rowley family, Convicts in the Channel, Sandfly Tramway, Margate Fish Factories.

These are all available for viewing in the Museum Library/Research Room or as booklets for sale in the Gift Shop.

None of the research is considered to be complete. The files are all a 'work in progress', and can be added to if additional information becomes available. No doubt, there is more to be found, and it is possible that there is the occasional error, particularly where personal recollections are involved. But, hopefully they're a starting point for those wanting to build a more complete history.

Our principal sources of information are: Museum Library resources, Trove, Tasmanian Archives/Libraries Tasmania Website, Ancestry.com, talking with people, and books written/collated by authors such as Julie Gardam, Madge Lowe and Peter McFie.

Current projects include: Tabor family, Brookfield, Mason Family, Frost family, Scallops, Montgomery Park/Mission Afloat, Fehre Family... and there are plenty more to come!

If anyone is interested in taking on a research project, please get in touch with Mike Avery or David Tulip who will be happy to take you through the process and provide help in using Trove and other research sources. You don't need to have perfect writing skills, it's more about putting stuff together.

Mike Avery

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From the President

Wild and woolly weather for ducks. Glimpses of sunshine teasing us into thinking we are closer to spring, but alas Winter hangs on. It has been an exciting time at the Museum these last few months.

We were privileged to host Her Excellency, Governor Barbara Baker and her entourage earlier this month. A short tour of the museum and conversation over coffee was the order of the day. A most enjoyable time was had by those attending. (Photo page 1).

Independent for the Huon, Dean Harriss and Labor MP Meg Brown were also welcomed and given a tour and background information about the museum. Both showing great interest in our treasures.

I was asked to give a presentation about the Museum to a group of U3A participants in Kingston as part of their "Meet the Community" program. This was received well, and many hadn't realized that so much happens here. Conversation was sparked by some of the objects on display, with memories stirred. Thankyou to Sheila for your assistance.



From Helen Lindsay

"U3A Kingborough term 3 "Meet the Community" course started with an entertaining informative talk on the Channel Museum by the President Judi Castle.

Judi brought along memorabilia for us to reminisce. She also told stories of the school children's reactions to pee pots, beheaded models and the school room cane.

Judi also thanked the team of volunteers who spend hours keeping the museum open to the public.

It was an excellent start for our U3A term, and we thank Judi for her obvious passion progressing the museum into an award-winning venue."

Judi at U3A Kingston

We were honored to win the Kingborough Business Award 2024. This is a testament to the continued commitment and dedication of our volunteers to keep the museum relevant and viable. A huge THANKYOU and CONGRATULATIONS to us.

Work is progressing on the storage building – slab is down, framework up and bricks being laid. Our curatorial team is eagerly preparing for the move with the hopes of moving in by Christmas.

The "Night at the Museum" sessions are well attended with congratulations to Sheila for providing us with interesting speakers and topics. We are always open to sourcing areas of interest for these evenings and reach out to the community for topics we can offer for next year. Please let us know if you have any suggestions.

LOCAL ARTIST INVITATION

The museum has FREE exhibition space available to local artists to display and or sell their works. This is a great opportunity to promote yourself so please contact us for details. We look forward to hearing from you.

Keep happy, healthy and positive

Judi Castle

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A night at the Museum



The History of the Iron Pot

On May 8th, Suzanne Smythe gave a talk on The Iron Pot, or more correctly, the Derwent Light, which was the second lighthouse built in Australia, in 1832, and is the oldest remaining Lighthouse in Australia.

Originally manned by convicts, it has seen shipwrecks, mutinies, a gold rush, huge storms and births and deaths. We know of its life from the letters of the keepers and their official fortnightly reports to the Marine Department. It was the first lighthouse to use acetylene gas, and solar power and locally made lighting equipment. It is a harbour light and marks the beginning of the Port of Hobart- thus, it was used as a marker for yacht races as early as 1840 and the outer limit for piloting vessels.

Suzanne is the Co-ordinator of the Bruny History Room and author of *The Iron Pot*; *Guardians of the Port (Pilots)*; *Tomeniena*; *Whales, Maidens & Gold*; *Excella* and *Knocklofty*.

Left: Judi Castle (President) and Suzanne Smythe. (photo courtesy Melissa Grabert)

A Classroom at Sea: the Woodbridge Marine Discovery Centre

On Wednesday August 14th Pam and Tim Nossiter spoke about their fascinating experiences working with students at the Woodbridge Marine Discovery Centre until their retirement in 2013.

In 1997 Pam, a science teacher, got the job of a lifetime as a secondary teacher at the Woodbridge Marine Discovery Centre, got to play with sharks, seahorses and dolphins and spend her working days taking students out on the D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

Tim grew up in a sailing family in Sydney and spent a few years travelling the world in square riggers. He then became a light-keeper in Tasmania serving at Cape Bruny, Low Head and on Maatsuyker Island. For the last 25 years of his career Tim was the skipper of the Marine Discovery Centre's research vessel Pengharna.

Right: Tim Nossiter and wife Pam.



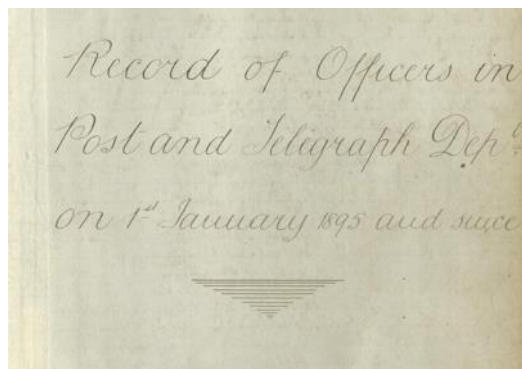
September 2024 Night at the Museum : A History of Dover and Surrounds

Wed 18 September 2024 at 7pm. The presentation will explore the history of Dover and surrounding areas through the lives of convicts and early settlers, and include stories of the convict probation station, timber and boat building industries and early land transactions. Presented by Caroline Homer - Vice President Dover History Group, President Tasmanian Historical Research Association. Bookings essential: email secretary@channelmuseum.org.au or phone 6267 2333 during opening times (Sun to Fri 10am-3pm).

Library news

Post Office – Staff Names Index 1890 to 1910

The National Archives of Australia (NAA) recently digitised the ledger book of Staff Names of people employed in Tasmanian Post Offices, both city and country, between 1890 and 1910.



The ledger lists people employed by the Post Office throughout Tasmania in a range of positions, including: post master or post mistress, cashier, letter-carrier, messenger, telephone attendant, telegraph messenger, operator, clerk, and storeman.

As a handwritten record, the list of names of the individuals employed by the Post Office is not recorded in alphabetical order. So, to find a particular person or location of their employment, you will need to go through each page, which may take a bit of time as the ledger contains over 700 pages!

Some of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel locations that have been found in the ledger include the following towns, together with the relevant page numbers.

<i>Post Office Location / Town</i>	<i>Page Number</i>	<i>Post Office Location / Town</i>	<i>Page Number</i>
Adventure Bay	348	Margate	309
Gordon	248	Middleton	292 and 612
Kettering	272	Oyster Cove	412, 485 and 612
Kingston	227	Sandfly	427 and 563
Kingston Beach	689	Snug River	434
Longley	256 and 261	Woodbridge	240
Lower Longley	397 and 739		

The ledger forms each employee's human resources record and includes each employee's commencement date, as well as the periods they were granted leave for their annual holiday. The records also include disciplinary matters where the employee has breached various rules or obligations of their employment.

However, to the modern eye, some of the listed 'punishments' may be seen to be a bit excessive given the nature of the offence. Among the offences and disciplinary measures that were applied are:

- Being fined 1/6d for late arrival
- Being fined 6d. for an error in delivering a message
- Being fined 5 shillings for failing to remove a telephone plug from the line ... which potentially may infer they were 'eavesdropping' on a phone call
- Being 'cautioned' for skylarking or loitering in town
- Being 'reprimanded' for being absent without leave, and 'severely reprimanded' for being absent for two days without leave.

It makes for some interesting reading. To access the ledger online, you can use the following link: <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/Viewimage.aspx?B=7840036&S=1>)

Alternatively, go to the National Archives of Australia home page (www.naa.gov.au), select **Advanced Search**, in the ID field item, type **7840036**, then click **Search**.

Temporary exhibitions

Faces of the Channel June-August 2024

Our temporary exhibition for June/July was our in-house display, *Faces of the Channel*, a collection of locally donated artworks and photos that represent our shared cultural identity.



A selection of the wonderful images in the exhibition.

20th century crockery—August 2024

Our temporary exhibition for August is our in-house display, *20th-Century Crockery*: A selection of fine pieces from our collection.



Part 1: The 1950s

I was a student at Snug Area School from 1950 until 1956. I caught the school bus from Kingston as there was no bus to Kingston Primary from our home. Students would be collected from the roadside all along the Channel Highway. The bus used to then go up Sandfly Road and would turn in an old quarry site after picking up more students.

I loved singing and in grade 2, I stood on the stage in the hall with Haydon Hughes and we sang “Little Mister Baggy Britches” together. I still remember it as if it was yesterday.

The Infant Block had a fireplace in each classroom. I was fortunate enough to have a seat by the fire when I reached grade 4. I remember it snowing heavily in 1952 and we built a huge snowman outside on the lawn. The important moment for me was to be able to go around the school ringing the hand-held bell!!

Grade 5 meant a move up to the “big school” where we were able to play marbles on the clay bank. We used to then line up and after having our hands inspected, to ensure they were clean, music would come over the loud-speaker and we would march into the classroom.

Anzac Day was special as we would all go to the sports down at Snug Oval and even if we didn’t participate, we still received a bag of sweets, or an ice cream or an apple. My Grandfather, Frank Lewis was the Parents and Friends President for many years and when he handed out the sweets, I felt ever so proud.

Swimming lessons were held at Snug Beach and somehow, I managed to get my 15 yards certificate even though I was terrified of the seaweed tangling around my feet.

Polio was doing the rounds and so we were all marched down to the Doctor’s Surgery in Beach Road for our vaccinations. It was a bit daunting for me when the girl in front of me fainted!! Thankfully, the Sabin Oral Vaccine came in after that.

Our teachers were amazing and I still remember each one of them, especially Misses Morgan, Lehner and Hansson. They were devoted to the task and had a way of inspiring us to learn and to achieve our goals. I will be forever grateful to them all.

In 1956 I had to sit the Ability Test for entrance to High School. There were 49 in my class, so I felt my chance of getting to High School was very slim indeed, but thankfully I was one of the seven who made it through.



Helen, Diane and Christine Pearsall getting ready to walk from the farm to the school bus stop on the Channel Highway.



Diane, Helen and Christine Pearsall, meeting around the fountain in the grounds of Snug Area School. (Extract from the Mercury Centenary Magazine 1954)



Christine's knitting Bag in Grade V. I hated sewing especially as I had a very long name!

Part 2: The 1920s

I guess I have a long connection with Snug School as my mother Joyce Pearsall (nee Lewis), was also a student in the 1920s, attending the Electrona Subsidised School for a couple of years and then moving to the School up Tiers Road. I remember her telling me how her teacher Beth Butcher, used to ride a bike to school.



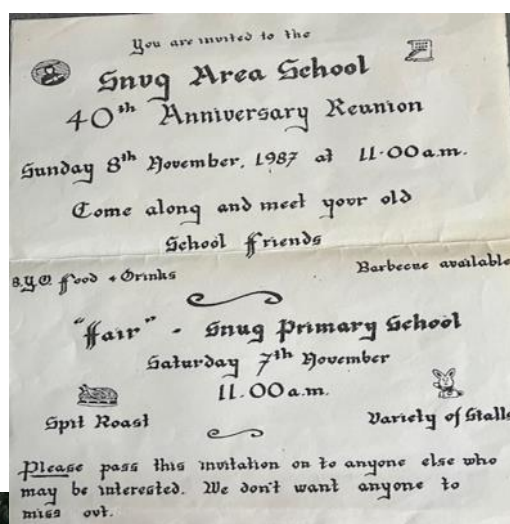
Students from the Electrona Subsidised School

My mother said classes were often held outside and she loved the bush stories such as "Snugglepot and Cuddlepie". Her own children grew up to have a love of books and several of her grandchildren have now written books of their own.



Students at Snug School up Tiers Road. This school was unfortunately burnt down in later years

Part 3: 1987 Snug Area School 40-year Reunion



Roy Lewis, Joyce Pearsall (nee Lewis), Helen Pyke (nee Pearsall) and Doug Lewis. All former students from Snug Area School.

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FOLK need help

Friends of the Library Kingston (FOLK) is a non-profit organisation which has been in existence for 30 years and which is run by volunteers for the benefit of the Kingston Library. Proceeds from events run by FOLK are contributed directly to the Library, enabling staff to offer a variety of activities and services to patrons. Over the years FOLK have made considerable contributions by:

- Purchasing materials to support the children's services and furnishings and equipment for the library which are not funded by any other source
- Providing funds for children's holiday activities
- Hosting and supporting author talks
- Providing appreciation gifts for music month participants

Over the years FOLK has successfully applied for Kingborough Council Community Grants, on behalf of the library, to purchase such items as a number of Robotics which have been very popular, with sessions being run within the library as well as out in the wider community.

The two lovely book benches in the library were another of the initiatives of FOLK along with the seating and equipment within the children's section. We have also successfully applied for Kingborough Council Community Grants to assist with funding Story Walks based on books from local authors and illustrators and installed at Dru Pt Margate and Snug.

Our purpose is to foster reading and literacy as much as possible within the community and our major fund-raising comes from our book sales which we hold twice a month (1st & 3rd Fridays, 9.30am – 12 noon). We are always looking for donations of good condition contemporary books and these can be left at the Library staff counter during Library opening hours or bring them along on the morning of our book sales.

For more information please contact Sheila Shewry.

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Volunteers' Get Together - 3rd October 2024

There will be a Volunteers' get together at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday 3rd October. All Volunteers welcome.

- ♦ Find out about the Roving Curator Project
- ♦ Meet other volunteers over a cuppa
- ♦ Find out more about how the Museum operates

For more information please contact Beth Bartlett (0404 896 443)

Beth Bartlett

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Office Bearers 2024-2025

President:	Judi Castle
Vice President:	Mike Jackson
Secretary:	Andrew Tomes
Treasurer:	Sarah Jackson
Co-Curators:	Lara Colrain and Ekaterina Lukina

Committee Members 2024-2025

Andrew Wadsley	Michele Mason
Helen Wadsley	David Tulip
Anthea Wallhead	Cathy Fyfe
Melissa Grabert	

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