



## BRUNY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual Report 2014/2015

First and foremost this year has been one of adjustment as Bev Davis our Coordinator started to have less involvement and Kathy Duncombe started as Acting Coordinator, under Bev's guidance. Bev has now requested to be relieved as Coordinator of the Bruny Island Historical Society, a position she has held for 37 years. Bev expresses a big thank you to all for the wonderful support and help of volunteers and islanders over these years which make these times very memorable. Her presence will be missed, but no doubt we will see her friendly face pop in from time to time, and hopefully she will continue to add snippets to our collection and continue to be part of the Historical Society as a member.

At a meeting of the group in May it was agreed that Kathy Duncombe would continue as Acting Coordinator for another twelve months whilst a new Coordinator is sought. It was also felt 3 monthly get togethers with a Morning Tea on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month would be beneficial for smooth transition and allocation of chores. The next one being 27<sup>th</sup> August and all are welcome at 10:30 for 11:00 at the History Room to meet other volunteers, toss around any problems, or just locate that record that alludes you.

The Annual Open Day to access the Variety Bay site will be changed to Easter Sunday whenever it falls in the future due to the wonderful success in April this year with approximately 70 people attending. Suzanne Smythe took tours of the Church site c1846 and Pilot Station c1831 on the hour and these were extremely well attended throughout the day. Booklets on the history of the site were also well received and will be available at the History Room at Alonnah if you missed out on the day. Bev's delicious apples went down a treat as usual. Access at other times is welcome by booking via Suzanne Smythe 0409259118. Information leaflets are available at the History Room, Alonnah.



### **Contributions this year to the History Collection include:**

- 1] Book - Ships of Hobart Harbour by Rex Cox & G. W. Cox – July 2014 [Bk3/14]
- 2] Birdsong – A celebration of Bruny Island Birds - donated by BIEN to BCA - History Room [Bk3/15]
- 3] St. Peter Variety Bay Church Bruny Island - Baptism, Burial & Marriage Index Booklet (update)
- 4] Variety Bay Historic Site booklet
- 5] Items from St. Peters Church via Sheryl McMillan & Bruny Island Cemetery & Chapel Ass. Inc. [Bk3/16]
  - The War Memorial at the front gate – of North Bruny soldiers
  - The Bell Tower - prefer to leave on site at this point of time.
  - St. Peters Church Foundation Stone – 1895 – first Church on site burned down 1967 bushfires.
  - A group of 3 photos in a white frame –The Opening of St. Peter's Church 11 Dec 1895
  - Wooden plaque with gold lettering – new St. Peters Church which replaced the one destroyed 1967
  - Wooden Plaque with gold lettering – Church of St. Marks consecration 10<sup>th</sup> May 1981
  - Wooden frame with white parchment - Church of St. Marks consecration 10<sup>th</sup> May 1981
- 6] Tea towel of Bruny Island French connections from Vicki Sandford Simpsons Bay [Bk3/17]
- 7] A Convict Pioneer B.G. & P.C. Smith donated by Peter Smith [Bk3/18]
- 8] Facsimile of Vaughan/Davis War Letters – Originals donated to Canberra by John & Bev Davis [Bk3/19]
- 10] Pieces of crockery from 'Blinkbonnie' garden in box donated by Trudy [Bk3/20]

My thanks on behalf of Bev and myself to our dedicated volunteers and to Post Office staff for keeping the History Room open to the public seven days a week. Great effort!

Kathy Duncombe – Acting Co-ordinator