

Annual Report 2017/2018

Over the past twelve months we have celebrated two important milestones; August marked 20 years since the opening of the History Room and was marked by a Tea Party for the community, and in November we celebrated 30 years as a Historical Society by having a month of activities.



During the year many of our members undertook research projects and answered numerous enquiries. As in past years BIHS was the go to place for all things Bruny, from interstate visitors and the local community to professional researchers and visiting academics.



In January archaeologists Don & Val Ranson visited the History Room to photograph the Davis sugar bowl and then took Kathy out to Missionary Bay, the site of George Augustus Robinson's 'Friendly Mission', to discuss his research and findings on site. Kathy has continued to be a valuable stalwart of the organisation, hosting visiting organisations and family groups at the History Room. One significant event was the Dillon /Dwyer family reunion where several descendants added valuable information to our files.

Our annual open day at Variety Bay was well attended and special thanks must go to Sue and her trusty team of helpers who continue to ensure —recognised.

Cynthia went on a fact-finding mission for the James Cook Society, which is based in Plymouth, UK and uncovered a plaque that had not been recorded previously.

Many interesting avenues of research have been followed this year by Sue, and she has contributed several new folders of information to our collection.

Reg and Kathy have compiled a new register of documents and resources for ease of access and for those new to research. Reg has also worked tirelessly on the latest reprint of the "Guide to Bruny Island History" by Bev Davis.

Adrian has been continuing with his speciality War Remembrance and gathering material for some interpretation posters in other areas.

A special thanks goes to Cynthia and Janet, who continue to archive our holdings, and to Janet for her rostering prowess, and to all those who have so ably manned the History Room over the last twelve months. As in previous years Margaret has continued to make a significant contribution to family research. It was Sr. Mechtilde's last year as an active member of the Historical Society as she has now moved off the Island, Sister's help and contributions will be sadly missed.

In November I took part in a 2-day Digital data workshop [GLAM] run by Museums Galleries Australia & National and State Libraries. It was a great way to see what other similar organisations are doing and how they approach digitising their collections. A large amount of our collection had already been digitised and we are now working on ways to make it more accessible for research and discovery.

We have had a minor revamp in our display corner that has allowed us to provide small exhibitions of our collections in a more appealing way and hope to continue to improve this area of the History Room with some new display cabinets in the future.



This year we reviewed our public liability requirements and secured insurance. We have also started on the road to becoming an incorporated body, this should be finalised after the start of the new financial year.

As a Historical Society we rely heavily on the support of those current and past residents who are happy to share snippets of their lives and those of their forebears. We are continually grateful for their generosity.

Purchases for the year include:
Digital camera – (Glam Peak Grant)
Digital Projector – (B I Cork Club Grant)

Books for our collection:
The Family of William John Hawkins by Mick Hawkins
On Splintered Rails by Mark Fry

Contributions

Bruny Island – A Brief Historical Sketch – donated by Alannah School & prev. Scottsdale High Bk3/36
A handmade convict bonnet for Bridget Coen donated by Irene Sward Bk3/37
A silver thimble belonging to Leila Clennett – donated by Sr. Mechtilde Bk3/38
Copy of Riawe – Lyndon Haige Bk3/39
Pittwater Chronicle Vol 1 June 2015 – Historical Society of Sorell – Peter MacFie Bk3/40
Portable Projector Screen donated by Rex Moody
The Family of William John Hawkins – Bk3/44
Book - The Master of Hells Gates by Chris Maxwell & Alex Pugh – Kinghorne family (*North Bruny connection*)- Bk3/46
Diary of Maureen Mary Hawkins donated by the Channel History Museum Bk3/43
Sewing Basket and contents belonging to (Violet Dillon) Sr. Justine donated by Sr Mechtilde Bk3/41
School Geography text belonging to Florence Eyles Alannah, donated by Stephen Eyles Bk3/42
Photographs of Early Simpsons Bay residents donated by Karen Darby Bk3/45

Tracy Thomas
Co Ordinator BIHS