

President's Report – June 2019

It is my pleasure to report that the Monthly Meetings held at the Moonah Community Centre have maintained good attendance and good fellowship.

Several new members have joined the Association during the last few months and we look forward to having the opportunity to welcome these members at monthly meetings, whenever it is possible for them to join us.

Many thanks to members Jane W, Christine J and Christine O'H for the almost completed documentation listing procedures for HTFS Assn. events and relevant compliance issues. This will make organisation of the Association activities a much easier process for all involved.

I draw attention of members to the *Hobart Town (1804) First Settlers Association* web page – this can be accessed for general viewing; however, there is a Members only section available to financial members only. This latter section contains additional information and notes of interest to all. The webpage is administered by our Webmaster is Alastair Douglas OAM, and is regularly updated. Alastair provided details and answered questions re this section at the May Meeting. If you do not have (or, have forgotten) your log-on ID and/or password, then contact Alastair.

Further contact has been received from Hobart City Council re proposed development of Collins Place in Hobart, where the plan is to include recognition of Lieut. David Collins as a feature in this project. Council advised that "once the proposed design for the space has been resolved, following further design and cost analysis work which is now underway, and a period of community engagement, it would be useful for us to meet with the First Settlers Assn and discuss further". Hobart City Council are aware of problems with the St David's Park Memorial Wall, and a firm of Consultants have been hired to research and advise on the best way to ensure this wall does not further deteriorate. Five members of this Association, plus members of other community groups attended a forum to meet with the Consultants, to have an opportunity for input and to hear a little more of possibilities with this Wall and the headstones of the early settlers placed on it. The Association will be advised of the ongoing progress with this project, after more work has been completed on the resulting information and suggestions provided at this meeting.

Our major excursion during the past 3 months was to Lower Marshes, Jericho and Oatlands area. Members travelled by bus and private car to the church at *Rosehill* – Lower Marshes, and learned about Benjamin Jones, an early settler in Hobart, and his land grants in the Lower Marshes area. He, and sons John, Robert and James plus their descendants, became owners of around twenty properties in this area. Land for the Church at *Rosehill* was also donated by the Jones family and has been maintained by the family members for more than 120 years. A 3rd generation of Benjamin Jones family lived for some years at "*Glenview*" in Glenorchy, Southern Tasmania, and this house was sold to the Church of England in 1940s to become an Aged Care Home – "*Glenview*" is still in use for this purpose. Benjamin & Mary Jones were buried in St David's Park burial ground in Hobart, and their headstones are now part of the Memorial Wall, currently being assessed by Hobart City Council.

Stephanie & Charles Burbury welcomed us to their home *Bowsden*, near Jericho and gave a short talk about the property and the early owners.

At Oatlands, a feature of the day was a visit to the cemetery at St Peters Church, where both a granddaughter and a great grand daughter of David Collins are interred. The graves of Marianne Letitia DAVIDSON (nee CHACE), the Collins g/dghtr, and her daughter Elizabeth Catherine ADAMS (nee DAVIDSON) are buried in this Churchyard. For many years Joan Cantwell from Oatlands has cared for the graves. Joan's father Daryl Cantwell, in 1922-3, bought the house and shop where Elizabeth Catherine ADAMS had lived and operated a business until her death in 1919. Many thanks to Joan Cantwell for making these details known to us and showing the location of the graves.

Gwen Hardstaff – (President)