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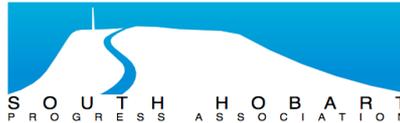
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No. 294 May 2012

ABN 65 850 310 318

NEXT SHPA MEETING

Our next regular General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 9th May, 2012** in *The South Hobart Community Hall*, 42 D'Arcy Street, commencing at 8:00 pm. All residents are welcome to attend - especially those new to the suburb. The Association reminds residents that **membership** of the SHPA Inc. is only \$2 per annum.

STH HOBART BUSHCARE

South Hobart Bushcare Group meets again on Sunday 20th May, 10:00 am to 12:30pm. We meet at the Ingram Street end of *Wellesley Park*. All are welcome to join us for as long as you are able. (All tools are provided.) Enquiries to **Janet** on **6223 8132**.

PRU'S REMINISCENCES - II

From Pru Bonham, former HCC Alderman 1990-2002, Deputy Lord Mayor 1994-2002.

"This proved the buildings had much earlier significance. Whilst I think economic vagaries ultimately killed off the "King Cole" proposal, it prompted a new urban conservation consciousness and the slogan: "people's place, not office space."

Election campaigns 1992 and 1994:

Although Peter's main focus was environmental and peace activism, he performed outstandingly in the two elections that he contested. Peter stood as a Green Independent candidate at the by-election for the *Legislative Council* (Upper House) seat of Hobart in April 1992, under the reforming slogans of 'Put a Brain in the Legislative Council' and 'Bring the Legislative Council into the 1990s'. In a stellar field of eleven candidates, comprising HCC aldermen, HCC wannabes, and several other high profile candidates, he ran a clear third, with about fifteen percent of primaries. He topped four polling booths and the pre-poll votes, and was last eliminated, his preferences favouring *Royal Hobart Hospital* chief, Jean Moore, over the retiring member Hank Petrusma. (For the psephologists: The by-election was necessary because Mr. Petrusma ran unsuccessfully for another level of government, tried to get his seat back, and lost.)

In March 1994, Peter stood for the *Hobart City Council* election in the

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Hobart Community Team, headed by Pru Bonham, and was narrowly defeated. 1994 was the first HCC election using postal ballots and the first "universal franchise", where all residents on the State electoral roll were automatically enrolled to vote. (Prior to 1994, only ratepayers were automatically enrolled. Renters and students had to enrol to vote: the process was not clear-cut and many people missed out.) In the late 1970s, houses in Dynnryne were raided by the police who wanted to know why "all these communists were enrolling to vote in council elections"! In 1990, young people with nose rings and colourful haircuts, one the daughter of a judge, were turned away at the *Hobart Town Hall* on the last day for enrolment to vote because: "It's lunchtime and no-one here can sign your forms." When they returned later, the office had closed! Although everyone who was enrolled could now receive a postal ballot, full Robson rotation, where the names of the candidates are scrambled and then rotated, was not used in this election. Up until 1992, the ballot papers had been alphabetically arranged. In the 1994 poll, a single ballot paper draw was used, but it was not alphabetically arranged. At the top of the ballot paper was popular Lord Mayor, Doone Kennedy, who pulled in over forty percent of the primary vote with 7,600 primaries. Psephologist* Kevin Bonham's report of the 1994 HCC elections raised the possibility of "proximity voting" (that is: that candidates closer to Alderman Kennedy may have been advantaged by their proximity). Peter Brain finished fifth on primaries with 702 votes, and fared well on the preferences of his team mates, especially one D. Halse Rogers! After the last progressive candidate (Liz Little) was eliminated, he was still narrowly in fifth place,

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ahead of Jeff Briscoe and Ron Christie. However, in this case, the critical distribution was the third parcel of the cut-up of Eric Hayes' votes; Christie had edged ahead of Briscoe on the first and second parcels. Then, the third parcel of Hayes' behaved completely differently; Briscoe got back in front of Christie by sixteen votes and went on to win the sixth and final seat, defeating Peter Brain by 190 votes on Christie's preferences. I often wonder what HCC in the mid-1990s would have been like had Peter been elected!"

[*Psephology: The branch of Sociology that studies election trends.]

ABC TV (TASMANIA)

Supporters of locally made television are being urged to voice their opinions about planned cuts to the ABC's Hobart TV production unit, which is responsible for outside sporting broadcasts as well as a number of locally made programmes like *Auction Room* and *Collectors*. An online petition can be signed at www.fabctas.org.au/category/news.

HCC ICAP REPORT

Hobart's Inner City Action Plan
The Hobart City Council recently announced that an Inner City Action Plan - the first phase of fifteen projects arising from the recommendations of the *Gehl Report: Hobart 2010 Public Spaces & Public Life* - has been endorsed by Council. The initial priority projects include upgrading Liverpool and Collins Streets between Murray and Elizabeth Streets, examining upgrades to the Bus Mall, improving access across the Brooker Highway to the Queen's Domain and identifying all commercial businesses in the CBD, amongst others. For further information regarding the *Inner City Action Plan*, please contact the Executive Manager City Design, Mr. George Wilkie on 6238 2907 or by email wilkieg@hobartcity.com.au.

COMMUNITY GATHERING

The South Hobart Sustainable Community invites you to an evening of mulled wine, sweet treats and interesting discussion about Food

Sustainability in Tasmania. The evening will be held on Tuesday 15th May, 2012 at the South Hobart Primary School Hall, Anglesea Street. Dion Lester will share stories of his recent trip to Cuba and North America, exploring Urban Agriculture projects on a Churchill Fellowship. Lissa Villeneuve from *Sustainable Living Tasmania* will discuss sustainable food systems and Millie Rooney from *Source Community Wholefoods* will highlight some of the positive local solutions taking root in our area. On a slightly different note, Deb Terry from the *Scientists in Schools* programme will introduce us to the South Hobart Adopt-A-Waterway project - linking students and the wider community with our beautiful Rivulet.

RIVULET WILLOWS

Many concerned residents have contacted the Association recently about the removal of the crack willow (*Salix fragilis*) along the Rivulet (from the C3 Church in Anglesea Street to near the off-lead dog area in MacFarlane Street. The Hobart Rivulet is unlike other watercourses flowing from the Mountain in that it has an important historic connection with Hobart Town's early settlement. The willows are an important, integral cultural element in the landscape. They provided the women convicts at the *Female Factory* with material for basket manufacture and many other useful items. The Association conducted a survey many years ago to ascertain community attitudes to the retention of the willows. The overwhelming majority of respondents considered the willows an important aesthetic component of the Park and were against their

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Contributions are welcome and should be forwarded to the Newsletter Editor, PO Box 200 South Hobart 7004 or to dhalserogers@hotmail.com by the first Monday of each month.

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