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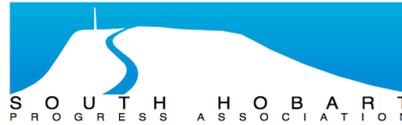
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362 Macquarie Street
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Salad Bowl



President: Rosemary Sandford

(Incorporating Cascades Progress Association)
Founded 1922

Hon. Secretary: David Halse Rogers

PO Box 200 South Hobart Tasmania 7004

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No. 303 March 2013

ABN 65 850 310 318

NEXT SHPA MEETING

The next meeting of the Association will be a **General Meeting**. The Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 13th March, 2013** in the *South Hobart Community Hall*, 42 D'Arcy Street, commencing at **7:30pm**. All residents are welcome to attend, especially those new to the suburb.

SOUTH HOBART BUSHCARE

South Hobart Bushcare will be meeting again on **Sunday 17th March from 10:00 am to 12:30pm** at the Ingram Street end of *Wellesley Park*. All tools are supplied and all are welcome to come for as long as you are able.

MACQUARIE STREET STATE SCHOOL UPDATE

At present, an Arts consortium - *The South Hobart Living Art Centre* - led by renowned theatre director, Dr. Neil Cameron (a resident of South Hobart), and made up of groups, including the Wooden Boat Festival, who currently work out of the *Salamanca Arts Centre* has a proposal before the State Government which will provide a win-win situation for all parties, whilst keeping the Old School in community hands. Neil Cameron's *School of Performing Arts* is based on the acclaimed French *Lecoq Method* and will be linked to schools in London, Florence and Berlin. It will include internationally acclaimed US theatre teacher, Amy Russell. As local architect, Robert Morris-Nunn wrote in an article in *The Sunday Tasmanian* (30th December, 2012) "*I see this opportunity as the basis for a truly unique tourist development. It would add another layer to the cultural activities that are happening in Hobart now, and add to the burgeoning creativity of this unique place we call home*". What a coup for South Hobart! All that is required now is for the State Government to seize the initiative.

[Below is a list of the range of actions and the extent of the SHPA's many years of advocacy and political lobbying as part of its long standing attempts to keep the former *Macquarie Street State School* in community hands. In addition to masses of emails and letters over the past four years, our efforts have

COMMUNITY CENTRE

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Phillip Hoysted

6223 3415

included:-

- * **Media** - articles in newspapers and radio, TV;
- * **Letters** to the Editor of *The Mercury*;
- * **Multiple meetings** with Ministers and MPs, Legislative Councillors and Senators, etc. at State and Federal levels;
- * **HCC meetings** and correspondence with the Lord Mayor, Damon Thomas, and other interested and sympathetic aldermen and ;
- * **Petition** with over 700 signatures, tabled in Parliament by Elise Archer of the Opposition;
- * **Street stalls/information sessions**;
- * **Public Notices** which called for *Expressions of Interest* in possible uses of the site from community organisations and individuals;
- * **Site visits** organised by the Association for stakeholders and potential users to view the site; and
- * **Public meetings** seeking the views of and support from South Hobart residents. In addition, over the years, the SHPA Inc. has put regular updates on the battle to save the "Old School" in our monthly Newsletter - *A South Hobart Newsletter* - which is hand delivered by our volunteers to some 2,700 plus residences in South Hobart.]

NBN IS IN SOUTH HOBART SO IS TELSTRA

As South Hobart embraces the *National Broadband Network (NBN)* rollout in the area, *Telstra* has created a 'Pop Up' store in Macquarie Street, next to the Newsagent. Michael Patterson, Area General Manager of *Telstra* in Tasmania says: "We wanted to be central to the South Hobart community to allow residents to visit the Store, experience the technology and talk face to face with our staff. We want to simplify what is a complex topic, and provide residents access to *Telstra* Tasmanian team members to answer questions and explain the process". The store is

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Authorised by E Ruzicka 699 Huon Road Fern Tree

open from Monday 4th March to Saturday 13th April, and has already seen many residents visit the Store to enquire about how to sign up or migrate to the NBN. (Eventually, all residents will need to move onto the NBN as fibre optics will replace the existing copper network.) Telstra will host a catered event for all South Hobart businesses on Thursday 14th March at 5:00 pm. To rsvp or for more information, please email sarah.mackinnon@team.telstra.com or call the store directly on 6224 7354. Demonstrations for community groups can also be arranged. The store will be open Mon-Fri 10:00 am-6:00 pm and Sat 10:00 am-3:00 pm.

THE MEMOIRS OF A SOUTH HOBART POSTMISTRESS - I

In the Beginning

I began work as the South Hobart Postmistress in September 1979. On my first day, I was very nervous and apprehensive as I knew I had huge shoes to fill, having heard how popular the previous postmistress had been. When someone, held in such high esteem, departs there is a certain amount of resentment towards the incoming one - just human nature, I guess. Acceptance takes time. I am not very tall and the counter seemed so big; just as though it also resented my being there. I knew very little about South Hobart. I knew it was a very old suburb, that's all. Customers trickled in, no doubt taking me out of twist, and, as the morning wore on, I felt more at ease. Time was passing quickly as I became very busy. Well into the morning, something at the end of the counter caught my eye. Some very thoughtful person had placed, on the counter, a jar with a large bunch of lilac. What a lovely gesture! It made my heart sing. I felt welcome. I will always be grateful to that lovely person who is still unknown to me. Lilac will always be very special. I have a lilac tree at home, and, in Spring, when it blooms, I remember. As florists like to remind us: "say it with flowers". How true! In the early days, the post office had been a family business owned and run by Miss Joyce Woods' mother and

father. It apparently sold just about everything as corner shops did in those times. Joyce rented the business to the Postmaster General's Department, known as the PMG then; now *Australia Post*. My first encounter with Joyce is memorable. I was the new postmistress and I was under scrutiny. However, in time, I found that under that stern façade was a very caring and friendly human being. We became the best of friends and, on my last day at the post office, Joyce presented me with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. I know she felt sad at my leaving. I saw tears.

The post office was what one might call 'rustic'. The floor had old, cracked linoleum, and, after much persistence on my part to have it replaced because it was unsafe and could so easily cause a customer to have an accident if he or she happened to catch his or her footwear in a crack, it was finally replaced with carpet. Quite a luxury for the old building.

Unfortunately, the heating was inadequate. There only existed a small wall heater, which seemed to warm the ceiling and nothing else. At times, I thought I would freeze to death. Finally, it was agreed that I have a floor heater, which made winters more bearable.

The grocer shop, now a post office, was attached to the living quarters so there was a separate toilet, bathroom and a very small kitchen. All pretty decrepit, although the toilet had been upgraded. The rest of the living rooms had been sealed off from the post office quarters.

Although my intention was not to stay very long, I remained for almost fourteen years. The pay was poor and, at times, the work was very hard, but I loved South Hobart and its people. They were so warm and friendly and I felt part of the community. When my husband, George, retired, he joined me at the post office and lessened the work load. As husband and wife team, we worked harmoniously and enjoyably. [to be continued.]

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