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Editorial

Local history has been neglected in Tasmania – neglected “officially” by schools and universities. But a concern for the people’s history has been cherished and passed on, in diaries, scrap-books, boxes, photo-albums, sheds, yarns and memories. This social history is being “re-discovered” by specialists, enthusiasts and entrepreneurs.

The re-kindled interest, generated by the Bi-centenary, has produced local history groups in different parts of Tasmania. Unlike mainland Australia, the island has had few such groups, possibly due to fear of the convict past, and the impression given that our history wasn’t “grand” enough (unless seen through the rose-coloured glasses of the National Trust!)

The need was felt for authentic, well-researched articles which portray the ‘real’ Tasmania, written from within a community, not imposed from above. The “Tasman Peninsula Chronicles” was initiated by the local Bi-centennial Committee, and convened by the Editor.

After receiving contributions, the articles were typed on the BBC computer of the Tasman District High School using ‘Edword’, printout, proof read, electronically ‘spell-checked’, corrected (twice) and printed again. Then followed photo selection, layout and final offset printing.

Following a well-attended seminar at the Council Chambers on the 8th March 1986, (led by Garry McKay, editor of the Circular Head History Society’s Journal), the Tasman Peninsula History Society was formed. The group intends producing the “Tasman Peninsula Chronicle” twice a year until at least 1988. Although funded initially by the Bi-Centenary, the magazine aims to pay for itself. The magazine intends covering any aspect of history involving the peninsula from 1830 to 1950. Articles are welcomed from residents old and new, and anyone interested in this unique part of Australia.

Thanks to all concerned – contributors, committee members, and the Peninsula community who have shown support to us.

Peter MacFie
Historian
Port Arthur Conservation and Development Project

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