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Editorial

Our 1988-only project has continued well past the idea of two or three journals first conceived. The range of articles in Chronicle No. 5 indicates why – their scope never ceases to surprise and intrigue all members and Peninsularites old and new.

The Highcroft School holds its share of memories in a typical small farms district where over thirty families once lived and worked.

Maurice Hallam's article about the pioneers of Stormlea, Tunnel Bay and Highcroft raises the question of the future for the few remaining cottages and out-buildings – they should at least be recorded and photographed.

The ballads of Mont Smith – from another Highcroft family – reveal an observant poet in the Banjo Patterson tradition, recording in verse personalities and events experienced during his working life, many from his days on the West Coast. Maurice Hallam is hoping to hear from anyone with other poems or recollections of Mont.

The "romance of washing day" is too rose-coloured a view of those pre-machine days – yet they encouraged (of necessity) a sharing and conviviality known now only to those who still use the tea-towel.

The beauty of work then, as Kate Sainsbury describes, came from talking and exchanging ideas and arguments while work today is often a one operator project and machines don't remember or listen or comfort, smile or cry.

Many people live on the Peninsula – that's right, "on the Peninsula" – for only a few years and yet their contributions are remembered where sincerity and dedication are shown. The life of the Kays outlined by Lyn Hallam falls into this category.

A brief article (and photograph) on the well-known mid-wife, Sister Barnicoat, asks for additional information.

The Burial Register of the Carnarvon cemetery, Port Arthur, one of the oldest free-settlement cemeteries on the Peninsula, is an unlikely source of information about residents and life – some from the convict days as well as new settlers.

History Room/Library, Nubeena

Progress report

The change of Government has required a re-direction of energy to new masters in an effort to gain funding. A joint committee met with representatives of the State Library and the Tasmanian Museum to argue our case. Funding cutbacks will mean lobbying Government members to ensure support and our place on the funding queue. Peter Patmore, the Minister Responsible, Christine Milne, and David Llewellyn were shown the plans and the Judd Park site.

Peter MacFie Editorial director Tasman Peninsula Historical Society

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