

Preface

This year has been another busy year for Southern Midlands Council's Heritage Program – with an increase in staffing levels; the establishment of new organisational structures for the operation of Callington Mill; pilot year of the Centre for Heritage at Oatlands (Heritage Education and Skills Centre) and the acquisition of the Oatlands Commissariat ensuring that the program will remain busy for years to come.

Callington Mill continues to put Oatlands on the map with national and international attention on this iconic operation.

Purchase of the former Oatlands Commissariat Store is an exciting advance in the program. This is probably the oldest remaining building in the town, and certainly the oldest building in the former Oatlands Military Precinct (pre-dating the Court House by two years). Council's ownership of this building strengthens the ongoing use of the suite of important buildings of the precinct – combined management and promotion of the Supreme Court House, Gaol and Commissariat, un public ownership) will encourage public use and participation in those buildings future.

This year also saw the commencement of the interpretation fitout and first stage of landscaping at the Oatlands Gaol – with view of having that building open to the public from early 2013, the culmination of several

years of conservation work (which is still ongoing). This project was made possible by funding from the Tasmanian Community Fund.

Our second summer archaeology program was staged over three weeks in late January/early February, with twelve interstate university students undertaking work on four sites through the district, with supervision by a team of five archaeologists. The remains of the gallows at the Oatlands Gaol were uncovered – a rare insight into the only regional gallows in Van Diemen's Land. Also excavated were partial footprints of two men's and two women's solitary cells, as well as test trenching at what might prove to be the original Oatlands Gaol site (predating the 'new' gaol by a decade). Surveys were also undertaken on three significant convict sites throughout the district –the Spring Hill Road Station, Spring Hill Probation Station and the Picton Road Station. Collaboration with property owners was the key to successfully locating and documenting these sites. An archaeology open day held in early February attracted around 500 people – five-times the number of the previous year, demonstrating that Southern Midlands Council are firmly on the map of heritage management and promotion.

At the end of the financial year, we were notified that Council has received around \$160,000 in funding from the Commonwealth Government's *Our Community Heritage* grant program, for four projects throughout the municipal area. One of these projects, the *Southern Midlands Community Heritage Archive* aims to explore and celebrate the heritage of the small towns of the municipality with a series of open days to be staged in late 2012 – demonstrating Council's focus on the entire region.

Council continues to gain credibility for participation in both statutory heritage management and in heritage projects – taking the lead in the heritage aspects of the regional planning process and preparing to embark on the formal processes around establishing sounder statutory heritage management processes. Throughout the year, collaboration has continued with Heritage Tasmania on moving towards a clearer and more integrated statutory heritage system and this close liaison with the state heritage agency is set to continue.

A very pleasing project to see this year was the restoration of the Jillett family vault at St Peter's Anglican Cemetery, Oatlands. Funded by the Commonwealth Government, with input from the family, the vault was at near-collapse – which would have meant the loss of a significant heritage item to the family and community (the Jilletts were early settlers and proprietors of Callington Mill). Through the determination of a descendant of the Jilletts, Mrs. Kris Herron, the restoration was undertaken with funding from the Commonwealth Government and the Jillett descendants, with in-kind assistance from Southern Midlands Council and a church service and unveiling in April this year provided a very poignant remembrance of the trials of these early settlers. With so many decaying monuments throughout the district, this success story is extremely inspirational.

This document is the third annual report pursuant to the *Southern Midlands Historic Heritage Strategy 2009-13,* and it is very satisfying to see so many initiatives ticked off. It is likely that the plan will be reviewed in late 2012 or early 2013, with so many projects ahead of schedule and several new projects having arisen in the last couple of years. The plan is a useful tool in keeping the program on-track and proving to external stakeholders that we are serious about our commitment to heritage.

Council continues to employ a full-time Manager of Heritage Projects, with a part-time Heritage Project Officer position being maintained. A part-time position of Collections Officer has been maintained. Several FTE equivalent positions continue with the Callington Mill business unit, through management, milling and visitor services. Arts Tasmania's *Roving Curator* project has provided curatorial support for five weeks of the year, and various consultancies are involved in ongoing heritage project planning and implementation. Several full-time positions, casual positions and apprenticeships are maintained through the *Centre for Heritage at Oatlands* initiative. Southern Midlands Council continues to have one of the most comprehensively staffed heritage programs of any local government agency in Tasmania. This fact is well recognised within the industry, and ensures Southern Midlands Council's position as a leader in heritage management. In addition to the dedication of the staff members who have input into Council's Heritage Program, the program has been made a success by the input of volunteers – with countless hours of volunteer time contributing to initiatives such as the Oatlands Supreme Court House, archaeological excavations, collection management/curation etc. The value of volunteer time is massive, and assists greatly in value-adding to the program.

Brad Williams

Manager – Heritage Projects

Southern Midlands Council.

Cover – LOST HERITAGE – a montage of lost buildings from throughout the region. Clockwise (from top left): The Bath Inn (Lemon Hill, Oatlands), Colonial church at Tunnack, McKay's Bakery (Kempton), Rockwood homestead (Antill Ponds), the Oatlands Watch House (79 High Street), Constitution Hill windmill, rear of the Halfway House (Antill Ponds), Anstey Barton (Bowhill Road, Oatlands). Centre: Turf Hotel (Kempton). Source: Dennison Heritage Collection (excluding Oatlands Guard House – Southern Midlands Council).

SMC Heritage Projects Program staffing 2011-12

Note that this does not include Callington Mill and Centre for Heritage at Oatlands staff – as separate business units of Council.

		olunteers	
Manager	Brad Williams (full time)		Jennifer Hull
			Todd England
			Peta Straiton
Heritage Project Officer	Alan Townsend (0.5fte)		Daniel White
			Samantha Fidge
			llona Bartsch
			Maria Raiti
Project Officer (Court House)	Rowena McDougall (temp)		Bob Stone
			Scott Jacob
			Emily Dillon
Collections Officer	Karen Bramich (temp)		Jesse Cutts
collections officer	Karen Brannen (temp)		Stephanie Cocks
			Brian Rieusset
Supreme Court House volunteers			Jon Stephenson
····	Rowena McDougall		Melinda Clarke
	Vonnie Bourke		Eleanor Bjorksten
	Biz Oldmeadow		Barry Bjorksten
Archaeology program supervisor	S	Consultants	
	Angie McGowan		Darryl Rodgers (Gaol Interpretation)
	Kate Quirk		Veronica Macno (Arts Tasmania)
	Jennifer Jones		Lesley Ikin (Arts Tasmania)
	Melissa Burns		Melissa Smith (Arts Tasmania)
			Jennifer Jones (Collections – volunteer)

Progress against specific initiatives arising from the Southern Midlands Historic Heritage Strategy 2009-2013 (as at 30th June 2012).

Stream	Strategy	Initiative	Progress during the 2011-2012 Financial Year
	а	Process the proposed local-level listings from the GHD survey, either under the current planning scheme, or as part of the anticipated new planning scheme deriving from the JLUPI process in order to ensure adequate statutory protection of heritage places.	A review of the current planning scheme Schedule 4 has been completed. A communications plan for pre-statutory consultation of proposed listings has been developed.
4 (Statutory)	b	Continue a strong alliance with Heritage Tasmania in the review of Schedule 4 of the Southern Midlands Planning Scheme 1998 (or successor) and Southern Midlands listings on the Tasmanian Heritage Register.	Heritage Tasmania has largely completed the new (and amended) Tasmanian Heritage Register entries arising from the findings of the Southern Midlands Heritage Survey. Support has been provided by SMC where required, demonstrating an effective and collaborative approach to state/local heritage management.

C	Review existing and proposed heritage areas and develop specific 'desired future character statements' or development guidelines for each, producing 'tailored' heritage precincts in the new planning scheme.	Consultation has progressed on a revised (and expanded) Historic precinct Special Area, and Callington Mill Special Area (both at Oatlands), as well as revised provisions for those areas, as part of the planning scheme review. Substantial work has been undertaken on a precinct around Shene at Pontville.
d	Incorporate flexible use provisions for heritage listed places within the new planning scheme.	Flexible use provisions, including consideration of non-confirming use for heritage places, where an overall heritage benefit can be demonstrated, has been included in the draft Heritage Code as part of the planning scheme review (see below).
e	Undertake a review of national planning scheme heritage provisions in order to develop planning scheme provisions for SMC (and the sub-region) as part of the JLUPI process, and in conjunction with the Department of Justice Planning Division's work on new standard planning scheme provisions.	A draft Heritage Code, which includes heritage places, precincts, cultural landscapes and places of archaeological sensitivity has been developed as part of the planning scheme review. Adoption of this code as part of the new planning scheme is expected in 2013.
f	Develop heritage management policies pursuant to statutory provisions in-line with national best- practice.	

	а	Continue with the implementation of the recommendations of the <i>Callington Mill Master Plan.</i>	The Callington Mill Master Plan was implemented during the previous two financial years. A new business unit to manage operation of the mill has been established. Some minor works are continuing to complete the implementation of the master plan.
5.1 Callington Mill	Ь	Seek and encourage linkages to the Callington Mill project with other local, regional and thematically relevant attractions.	Ongoing collaboration and linkages with complimentary organisations has continued as part of the operation of Callington Mill. A substantial amount of local, national and international media interest has been directed at the operation.
	c	Develop an archaeological management plan for Callington Mill, which considers archaeology both in the works, and interpretation programs.	The Callington Mill Archaeological Management Plan was implemented alongside the works process during the mill restoration and precinct works.



Stoneground flour from Callington Mill. Photo – Southern Midlands Council

	а	Continue to encourage research (historical and archaeological) into the Oatlands Military Precinct to gain a better understanding of layout, physical remains and overall context.	Ongoing historical and archaeological research has been undertaken as resources allow – a particular focus has been on the Oatlands Gaol and Oatlands Probation Station sites. Further investigation of the Oatlands Probation Station will be a focus of 2012-13.
5.2 Oatlands Military Precinct	b	Develop an archaeological zoning plan for the Oatlands Military Precinct, in order to guide future planning in that precinct.	
5.2 Outlands Winter y Freeheet		Liaise with Government owners of significant and archaeologically sensitive sites within the precinct for adequate recognition, protection	
	С	and investigation of sites.	Completed in 2009-10.
	d	Develop interpretive media for the Oatlands Military Precinct for incorporation into related interpretation projects.	Completed in 2009-10
	е	Investigate whether current statutory protection of physical remains is adequate.	Completed in 2009-10

Note that in May 2012, Southern Midlands Council purchased the former Oatlands Commissariat Store (1827). A conservation management plan and site master plan are to be developed in late 2012. The recommendations of these plans will be incorporated into the review of the Southern Midlands Council Historic Heritage Strategy 2009-13.



The former Oatlands Commissariat Store (1827), now part of the suite of heritage buildings owned by Southern Midlands Council. Photo – Brad Williams.



Matt Rooke of Rock on Rock Garden Escapes works on gabion stone walls at the Oatlands Gaol. Photo – Brad Williams

	а	Explore options for the establishment of a new swimming pool elsewhere to allow for demolition of the current facility	Preliminary plans for a new pool have been developed. Funding sources are continuing to be explored.
5.3 Oatlands Gaol	b	Implementation of the recommendations of the Oatlands Gaol Conservation Management Plan 2006 as current resources allow – particularly focusing on those works designated as 'urgent'	A full restoration of the Oatlands Gaoler's Residence was completed during 2010-11. A grant for \$96,000 has been received for stabilisation works to the gaol walls, to be completed by late 2012. Development, heritage and building approvals are in-place for the relocation of the gaol arch, which is to be completed by early 2013.

C	Encourage further research into the site and thematic contexts	Archaeological excavations in the men's and women's solitary cells and the gallows yard were undertaken as part of the 2012 summer archaeology program. The underfloor deposit collection is being used in the interpretation fitout of the gaoler's residence. Further historical research has been undertaken on the history of the site as part of the interpretation project.
d	Continue to seek funding opportunities through internal and external sources	A grant of \$96,000 was received from the Commonwealth Government's <i>Our Community</i> <i>Heritage</i> program for conservation works to the gaol walls.
е	Fully implement the Oatlands Gaol Conservation Management Plan 2006 and to seek funding wherever possible to do so.	Once the 2012-13 works program is completed, then the majority of the recommendations of the Oatlands Gaol CMP have been implemented. No further work can be undertaken until such time as the pool is removed.

f	Develop an interpretation plan for the site, which considers fit with other local and state heritage/tourism initiatives.	Following the receipt of \$94,000 from the Tasmanian Community Fund during 2010-11 and the competition of the Oatlands Gaol Interpretation Plan, the interpretation fitout of the Oatlands Gaoler's Residence and 1/3 of the gaol yard will be completed by the end of 2012.
ε	Scope business opportunities for the long-term sustainable use of the Oatlands Gaol, in-line with other local and multi-regional heritage and tourism initiatives	Following the completion of the interpretation fitout of the Gaoler's Residence, the building will be open to the public (to a limited capacity). Further business planning is required for the longer-term management and effective use of the building.
r	Develop an archaeological management plan for the site	Results of archaeological works over the past two years will inform a further research design to be developed in late 2012 for the 2013 summer archaeology program.
	Ensure that the future use of the building is guided by an appropriate level of business planning to ensure that the use is sustainable and fits with other local heritage/tourism initiatives.	See initiative 5.3 (g).



Archaeological excavation crew at the Oatlands Gaol, February 2012. Photo – Brad Williams



Angela McGowan leads students Jennifer Hull, Daniel White and Scott Jacob, excavating the solitary cells, Oatlands Gaol. Photo – Bruce Mounster, The Mercury.

	а	Develop a conservation management plan for the Oatlands Supreme Court House	No progress.
	b	Complete restoration of the building	Minor works have been ongoing, including bird- proofing and the planned toilet and kitchenette block at the rear (funded by the Tasmanian Community Fund - \$35,000).
5.4 Oatlands Supreme Court House	С	Establish a volunteer staffing program to open the building at least 4 days per week on an ongoing basis	Volunteer numbers have decreased this year, with regular opening infrequent; however guided tours of the building are available 7-days per week.
	d	Complete Stage 1 of the Court House interpretation implementation	Completed in 2009-10.
	e	Continue to foster partnerships with relevant stakeholders for the use of the building as a small museum and interpretation centre	The building is used occasionally for special functions/conferences etc. A local theatrical group have been staging performances in the building. Liaison with other stakeholders is ongoing.

f	Seek funding (whether internal or external) for the development of a business plan for the Court House.	
g	Development of a business plan which will consider where the Court House fits with other Oatlands heritage initiatives, i.e. Callington Mill and Oatlands Gaol.	No progress.
h	Review and continue the implementation of the Oatlands Supreme Court House Interpretation Project	No progress.
i	Subject to the findings of the business plan, seek to operate the Court House as a community focused small museum and heritage interpretation centre.	As per initiative 5.4 (c).

5.5 Chauncy Vale	а	Review and incorporate specific historic heritage management strategies in the review of the <i>Chauncy Vale Management Plan</i>	No progress.
	b	Develop a plan for <i>Day Dawn Cottage</i> , which incorporates landscape and archaeological management provisions.	No progress.

	Develop a collections policy and inventory of	
	chattels for Chauncy Vale, as per the provisions	
с	of Council's Heritage Collection Policy.	Completed in 2010-11.

	а	Continue the program of maintenance on the building.	Basic maintenance is ongoing, led by the Lake Dulverton/Callington Park Committee.
5.6 Mahers Point Cottage	b	Seek expressions of interest for usage of the building, preferably for a community use, or by private persons if no community use can be found.	No progress.
5.7 Heritage Collections	а	Develop the documents and procedures required to administer the Southern Midlands Council Heritage Collections Policy, integrating policies for regular update and review.	 Policy and procedure documents for management of the collection are being developed, with assistance from Arts Tasmania's Roving Curator Program. A part-time collections officer has been appointed. An artifact and collections catalogue has been developed, and substantial work is being undertaken to catch-up on cataloguing the growing heritage and archaeological collections.

b	Implement the findings of the Stacker report on the Kempton collection, in-line with the heritage collections policy.	Ongoing progress alongside 5.7(a).
с	Explore options for a short-term heritage collections store, in-line with the Clark & Paterson report.	An archaeological collections store has been established in the Oatlands Gaoler's Residence. The collection has already near-filled this facility and the establishment of a more permanent store is considered a priority.
d	Pursue acquisition of the Barrack St Police house for the development of a long-term heritage collections store and for ancillary facilities for the Oatlands Gaol.	Preliminary discussions have been held with the Minister for Police, and an in-principle agreement for possible future acquisition has been discussed.
е	Ensure adequate skills and resources to manage SMC's heritage collections to professional standards perpetually.	Several collections management and cataloguing day-workshops have been hosted for SMC staff and community members in conjunction with Arts Tasmania.

5.8 Streetscapes	а	Continue to incorporate heritage management practice in the planning and implementation processes of streetscape improvement projects.	Heritage input has been provided in streetscape projects such as the Oatlands Underground Power, Kempton Coaching Initiative and general streetscape maintenance and improvement projects. The review of planning scheme provisions/heritage precincts also incorporates heritage streetscape considerations.
5.9 Convict sites	а	Continue to investigate, document and promote the convict heritage of the Southern Midlands where opportunities arise.	Survey work has been undertaken on the Spring Hill Road Station, test-trenching at the Spring Hill Probation Station, and survey work has located the previously unknown site of the Picton Road Station. Funding has been secured (\$34,000 – Commonwealth Government) for a Southern Midlands Probation Stations project which will further research these stations, and allow interpretive material to be developed.

institutions for the investigation and promotionArchitecture students have used Oatlands casebof the convict heritage of the Southern Midlands.studies in their fourth year folios.



The Picton Road Station, recently located and surveyed. Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office.

	а	Develop a brief conservation plan for the remaining portion of the Green Ponds Watch House	Completed in 2010-11.
5.10 Green Ponds Heritage Centre	b	Undertake conservation and restoration work on the watch house as resources allow	A new roof structure and glazing has been installed on the building, and some restoration works have been undertaken.
	с	Develop a project plan and undertake a feasibility study on the use of the watch house as a heritage centre, which might explore partnership opportunities.	A project plan is to be initiated during 2012-13.



University of Tasmania architecture student Wendy Roberts presents a hypothetical concept plan for the Oatlands Gaol to Mayor Tony Bisdee OAM, Cr. John Jones OAM, and SMC General Manager Tim Kirkwood. Photo – Brad Williams

5.11 Resourcing & business planning	а	Continue to seek external funding opportunities wherever possible	 External funding received by the Heritage Project Program during 2011-12 includes: Oatlands Gaol Wall conservation \$96,000 (Commonwealth Government). Community Heritage Archive Project \$36,000 (Commonwealth Government). Southern Midlands Probation Stations Project \$34,000 (Commonwealth Government). Oatlands Supreme Court House kitchenette/toilet block \$36,000 (Tasmanian Community Fund). Heritage Skills Taster Days (Heritage Education and Skills Centre) \$7,500 (Commonwealth Government).
	b	Maintain internal budget allocations where possible for seed-funding of heritage projects	Internal budgets have been allocated for Heritage Projects Program staffing, managerial & admin staffing, general maintenance of heritage properties, Callington Mill and Oatlands Gaol projects, and general streetscape and research projects consistent with the Strategic Plan.

C	Plan heritage project timelines with the aim of predicting external funding opportunities, but with 'Plan B' contingencies factored into the plan.	The Southern Midlands Historic Heritage Strategy 2009-13 continues to guide the overall heritage program. That document is to be reviewed in late 2012/early 2013.
		Business planning for projects such as Callington Mill, the Centre for Heritage at Oatlands and the Oatlands Gaol have been included in the overall plans for those projects. A directions workshop for the Oatlands Supreme Court House was held in December 2011.
d	Maintain a high level of business planning to ensure feasibility, accountability and sustainability of heritage projects	Further business planning is required for the Oatlands Gaol, Supreme Court House and Commissariat.
e	Seek suitable partnerships for value-adding to heritage projects	Partnership programs are ongoing with heritage projects. In particular, partnerships with Heritage Tasmania, Arts Tasmania, Tourism Tasmania, various universities and the Tasmanian Heritage Council have provided invaluable assistance to Council's Heritage Programs.

	f	Pursue opportunities for resource sharing with other government (local or state) agencies	As per initiative 5.11 (e) continue to be pursued wherever possible.
	а	Better identify those places within Southern Midlands which have the potential for integration into heritage tourism initiatives – both geographically and thematically, with a particular focus on publicly owned sites.	Some progress in association with various projects, such as Callington Mill, the Oatlands Supreme Court House and Oatlands Gaol. Ongoing association with the Heritage Highway Tourism Association.
	b	Develop a heritage place interpretation strategy, coupled with guidelines for physical branding of installations/publications in order to create a uniform and unique feel for heritage places in the Southern Midlands. This must be aligned with tourism strategies arising from the PA.	Interpretation at the Oatlands Gaol, and forthcoming probation station sites project has drawn from previous interpretation strategy documents (developed in 2010).
			Sub regional heritage linkages are promoted by Council's involvement in the <i>Heritage Highway</i> <i>Region Tourism Association</i> .
5.12 Heritage & tourism	с	Continue to foster an alignment to statewide heritage tourism strategies and principles.	SMC participate in consultation towards Tourism Tasmania's Historic Heritage Tourism Strategy.

d	Ensure that the interpretation of Southern Midlands heritage places is modern, dynamic, unique and memorable.	Substantial progress made with on-site interpretation of heritage sites such as the Oatlands Gaol. Public heritage programs and exhibitions also work towards this objective.
e	Seek linkages and cooperative projects with other Councils within the sub-region.	Further linkages to be pursued through the planning scheme review process, and through heritage Building Solutions.



Portion of plans for conversion of the Jerusalem (Colebrook) Road Station into a Probation Station, c1840. Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office PWD266/1/1216.

	а	Continue to develop and stage education programs attached to heritage projects	Twelve students from the University of Sydney , Flinders University and LaTrobe University participated in the Oatlands summer archaeological excavation season. Partnerships with the UTAS School of Architecture have been fostered. An <i>Artist in Residence</i> through Arts Tasmania's grants program will be living at the Oatlands Gaoler's Residence during late 2012.
	b	Explore opportunities to develop a heritage skills training centre at Oatlands, in collaboration with other institute and industry partners.	The Centre for Heritage at Oatlands – Heritage Education and Skills Centre is half-way through its pilot year. This organisation is a not-for-profit company established by Council to address shortages in heritage trades skills in Tasmania. Several courses have been successfully run at Oatlands and in other areas.
5.13 Heritage & education	с	Where possible, assist students and researchers investigate and promote the heritage of the Southern Midlands	The Heritage Projects Program has provided support to several students, authors and researchers who have an interest in Oatlands.

	Continue to stage regular community heritage workshops such as the annual trade days.	These trade days have been incorporated into the larger <i>Heritage Education and Skills Centre</i> initiative.
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Centre for Heritage at Oatlands, website front-page <u>www.centreforheritage.com.au</u>.

5.14 Community heritage interest groups	а	Encourage liaison and seek to provide assistance to community heritage groups where possible.	Liaison with groups such as the various historical societies of the district, the Pugin Foundation etc. is ongoing. Assistance was provided to the Herron/Jillett family for the restoration of the Jillett family vault at Oatlands.
5.15 State government partnerships	а	Continue to liaise and encourage collaboration with State Government agencies and the Tasmanian Heritage Council on development of heritage policy and projects.	Very positive ongoing partnerships have continued to be fostered with Heritage Tasmania, Arts Tasmania, Tourism Tasmania, the Tasmanian Skills institute and the Tasmanian Heritage Council. The benefits of these partnerships have filtered throughout Council's Heritage Program.



Glebe House, Kempton 1877. Photo – Munnings family.

	а	Continue to foster community involvement with heritage projects whenever possible	Community involvement is ongoing, through regular stakeholder forums and volunteer programs (i.e. at the Oatlands Supreme Court House, collections management, and on occasional archaeological projects). An overview of Council's Heritage Program was presented to several interest groups through the year, including the National Trust Members Advocacy Group, and the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology (in Dunedin, NZ). An archaeological open day was held in February which was attended by over 500 people.
5.16 Heritage promotion & public consultation	b	Continue to stage heritage events as part of wider state and national programs whenever possible	The Centre for Heritage at Oatlands was part of Heritage Tasmania's <i>Open Doors</i> program. An exhibition on wind powered technology was staged at Callington Mill as part of the <i>National</i> <i>Trust Heritage Festival</i> .



Unveiling of the restored Jillett family vault, St Peter's Anglican Cemetery, Oatlands, by the Hon. Dick Adams MP.

Photo – Brad Williams



Oatlands Township (from the south), photograph by Alfred Winter, c1885. State Library of Tasmania PH3012969