



Chainletter

News from the Founders & Survivors project at the Universities of Tasmania, Melbourne, Flinders, and the Australian National University

A Tri-annual Newsletter

Issue No. 18 December 2014

Convicts and Diggers

Update from Rebecca Kippen on the progress of the project and some interesting early results.
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Diggers to Veterans

Janet McCalman reports on our new ARC funded project on the First AIF.

Page 3

Compliments of the Season

Wishing all our Founders & Survivors Community a Happy Christmas and may we see you all in 2015 as we embark on a new journey with the AIF.

Convict Artists

Jenny Wells writes on Thomas Bock, the first in our new series on convict artists.

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Call for Volunteers

Do you want to make history???

Are you interested in participating in the first population study of the First AIF?

Can you come to workshops at the University of Melbourne?

This online research project will begin in May 2015.

Please register your interest with Tricia Curry on yaboo22@gmail.com

Editorial

Even more grant success

We were delighted in late October to be awarded a new Australian Research Council Discovery grant for the project *Diggers to Veterans: Risk, Resilience and Recovery*.

This new project will require two teams of volunteers and will run for three years. On page 3, we outline the aims and research plan of the project. We are seeking expressions of interest from potential volunteers.

This AIF project, *Diggers to Veterans*, will be different from the convict ships project. However, it will start from a similar principle: a unit of around 250 men who

embarked together after being recruited in Victoria.

We want to find out what we can about the background and character of each of those men, and then find out what happened to them:

- how many disappear from sight?
- how many lost their lives—killed in action, disappeared without trace, died from wounds or disease?
- what happened to them in the war: how many days at the front/ in hospital/ in custody or gaol?
- did they get sick and with what?
- were they wounded/ gassed/ shellshocked?

- how many returned to Australia?
- what disabilities did they have?
- what can we find out about their civilian lives from historical records?
- can we find when they died?

The second team of researchers will be a medical team. We are looking for retired doctors to follow the diggers' later lives through the Department of Veterans' Affairs medical files. They will examine in detail the veterans' health in civilian life in light of their war service. They will also be researching specific conditions of current interest to the Australian Defence Force

Any takers???

Volunteers' Corner

Convicts and Diggers

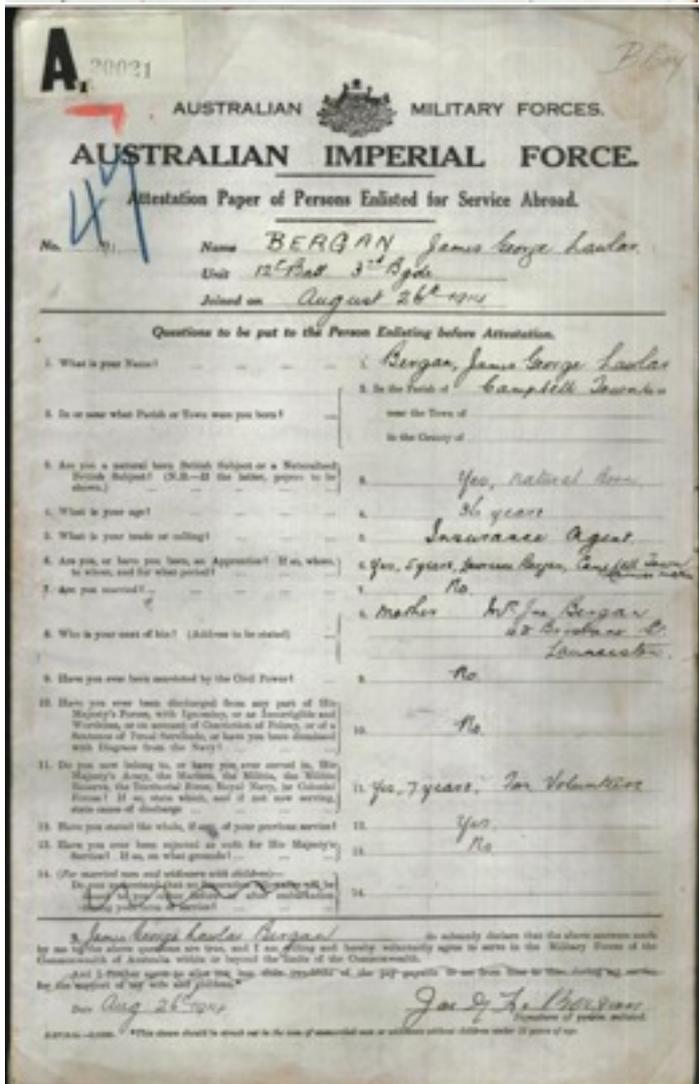
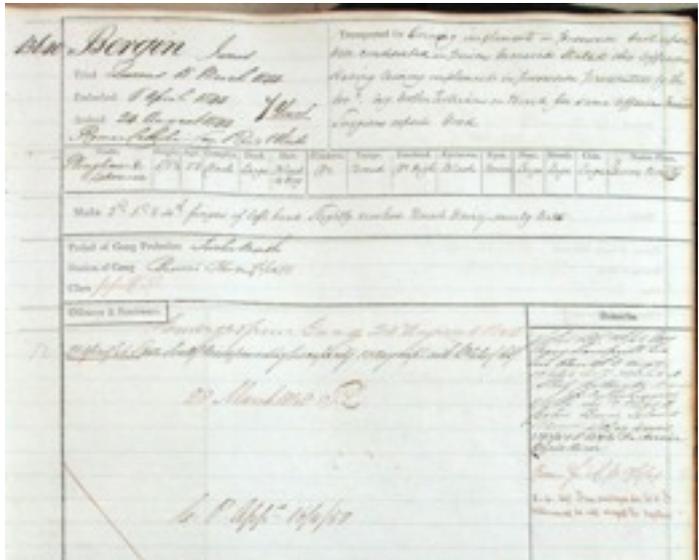
Rebecca Kippen provides an update on the project 'Convicts and Diggers: A Demography Of Life Courses, Families and Generations'

Data collection on this project began after workshops in May (Melbourne) and June (Hobart) 2014 were run to inform potential volunteers about the project. Since then, a team of a dozen outstanding volunteers have been transcribing information from the service records of Tasmanian-born World War One service personnel, and linking these Diggers back through their Tasmanian ancestry.

This is being done using a lot of innovative online detective work, and Google Docs spreadsheets and search functions developed by the project's Systems Designer, Sandra Silcot. Careful investigation has been needed to trace the many Diggers with common surnames, or who lied about their age, or who enlisted under false names.

Our aim was to have close to 1,000 records completed by the end of the year, and to have them ready for analysis early in 2015. In fact, thanks to the excellent work of our volunteers, and data checkers Tricia Curry and Nola Beagley, we already have more than 1,500 records completed! Data entry will finish at the end of 2014, and we are still on track to begin data analysis in early 2015.

Early results indicate that around three-quarters of the Diggers had convict ancestry--much higher than the 50 per cent we expected. We will use the data to explore relationships between heredity, early-life experiences, individual and familial characteristics, protracted stress, family formation, and upward mobility. The data will also be used in Janet McCalman's new project "Diggers to Veterans".



Founders & Survivors

Australian life courses in historical context 1803 - 1920

Diggers to Veterans: Risk, Resilience and Recovery in the First AIF

As you can see from our banner, Founders & Survivors has always envisaged a study of Australians from the convict population to the men and women who served in the First AIF. We have made a start with the project Convicts and Diggers following the ancestors of AIF servicemen born in Tasmania.

Now we can extend our project to a wider population who enlisted in Victoria—men who were descendants of both free settlers and convicts—and complete a collection of life courses in Australia that begin in the mid eighteenth century and conclude at the end of the twentieth: 250 years of human experience.

Australia is blessed with remarkable sets of records of ordinary people undergoing extraordinary experiences: penal transportation and war service.

Our convict records, especially those that have been preserved in the Tasmanian archives, are arguably the most detailed and intimate records of ordinary people's appearance, behaviour and backgrounds from anywhere in the nineteenth century

world. Certainly no settler colony can find out so much about its founding population as can Tasmania.

Our military and veteran records are no less remarkable. Australia is one of the few combatant nations from World War 1 where the service records have survived intact. The United Kingdom lost most of its WW1 service records in the Blitz. Only those nations that were not under bombing or invasion—the British Dominions and the United States have surviving English language records.

Our army service records are very detailed compared to those of many other nations. Australia had a volunteer army who had to be treated with greater respect than conscripts, and the traditions of bureaucratic precision were perhaps passed down from the convict era. Service records are also similar to convict conduct records of an individual under severe stress and not in control of their own life.

The First AIF records are also one of the few datasets of exposures to the Spanish Influenza, the last and worst pandemic to afflict virtually all mankind, taking many more lives than the Great War itself. Already research into influenza from the service records has suggested that personnel who were exposed to a different and less dangerous strain of influenza in 1916, acquired some immunity from that infection. This is

very important to know if we ever face another pandemic of a strain similar to the Spanish influenza.

The next advantage of Australian records is that we can more easily trace civilian deaths after the war through the death indexes. Victoria remains the best jurisdiction for tracing cradle to grave because of its outstanding vital registration system since 1855. Moreover death certificates are available as public documents until 1985, and often supply information on marriage and family formation that cannot be reconstructed from birth and marriage registrations which remain protected by privacy legislation for most of the twentieth century.

Just as we have done with the convicts, length of life—or survival—with causes of death and family formation remain our basic tests of resilience in the face of risk.

However, where Australian research really stands out is that we are one of the few nations to have preserved all our veterans' civilian medical records. Moreover the Commonwealth of Australia established a repatriation and pension scheme that was one of the most generous in the world. Returned service personnel could qualify for a part pension and reapply over their life time. Only the US offered a similar scheme but all the WW1 veteran health records for were culled in the 1970s.

Veteran medical records can amount to hundreds of pages just for one individual. The cost of archiving them is immense and in these straitened economic times, archives are among the first items to be cut by governments.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) files just for Victoria extend over seven kilometers of shelf space. They are held in Melbourne, whereas the Tasmanian Diggers' files are stored in the western suburbs of Sydney. This is a logistic reason for Founders & Survivors (FAS) moving away from Tasmanian born diggers. Moreover, we can trace death certificates in Victoria up to 1985 but not in Tasmania.

The Howard Government was considering shredding the DVA files until the head of the National Archives of Australia was able to cite Founders & Survivors as an example of how historical records of individuals can be used for both historical population and health research.

Our new grant

The Australian Research Council has awarded us \$560,000 over three years to answer the following questions:

What really happened to the Diggers after the war? In this centenary year of Gallipoli, we still do not know. We don't know how long they lived nor how they compared in health and family formation to civilians. Did some recover from trauma and exposures over time? Did the Repatriation Scheme and medical care make a difference? What social and biological characteristics may have affected risk, resilience and recovery? And what can be learnt about the lifelong impact of war exposures and traumas, to assist in the recovery of today's servicemen? This project aims to be the world's first cradle- to-grave medico-demographic study of survivors of military service in World War I, drawing on Australia's unique archive of service and veteran medical records.

Lead Chief Investigator:

Professor Janet McCalman, Melbourne School of Population & Global Health, University of Melbourne

Chief Investigators:

Dr Rebecca Kippen, Melbourne School of Population & Global Health, University of Melbourne

Professor (Lt Colonel) Michael Reade, ADF professor of Military Medicine & Surgery, University of Queensland

Professor John Hopper, AM, Melbourne School of Population & Global Health, University of Melbourne

Professor Joan McMeeken (retired), foundation professor of physiotherapy, University of Melbourne

Research Fellow:

Dr Richard Trembath, military and medical historian, University of Melbourne

Research Assistants

Tricia Curry
Nola Beagley
Garry McLoughlin

IT Systems designer

Sandra Silcot

What we will all do

This project will have a more detailed medical and psychiatric focus than the convict work because of the modern medical data in the DVA files.

Michael Reade brings to the project research questions that continue to concern the Australian Defence Force (ADF). Post-traumatic-stress syndrome is growing and the AIF project provides a unique opportunity to see how afflicted veterans fared over their full life time. Did many finally recover, especially when World War 2 provided jobs, or a place back in the Army, or a validation of their own suffering? Certainly there is already evidence that over time, quite a few got back on their feet, married and enjoyed better lives.

Another current concern of the ADF for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans is closed

head trauma: concussions where there is no external wound from being near explosions. In World War 1, especially in France, soldiers spent days and weeks under artillery fire. They could be buried alive; they endured explosive noise without protective head and hearing equipment. Did they show effects in later life?

We have virtually no evidence base on the life-long effects of amputations. We need to look at men who suffered nerve damage in severe flesh wounds. **Joan McMeeken** will be in charge of the physiotherapy questions.

Were there after effects of influenza—there is considerable evidence there were. What about long-term effects of scabies that might increase the risk of Staphylococcus A infection that can damage kidneys and heart valves? Many soldiers, especially at Gallipoli, suffered infectious diseases like typhoid, dysentery and malaria—did they have long-term effects?

These are some of the medical questions that the expert team will work through. But the historical team will provide new data on diggers' actual war experiences and exposures for the academic team to factor into their analysis. First, tuberculosis proved to be the largest cost to a Repatriation system that was generous for its time, but by 1938, unaffordable to the nation. The number of pensions being paid proved to be far higher than the original designers had expected. By 1938, more than a quarter of a million people were being assisted by war pensions, almost as many as were on the Old Age Pension. And the cost was almost 20 per cent of the Commonwealth budget.

Veterans found it very difficult to obtain pensions for tuberculosis and emphysema because of the cost pressures on the budget. If a man's service record did not record exposure to gas attack, then he had little hope no matter how bad his lungs were. Our historical team will be checking the digitised unit diaries for unreported gas attacks.

Richard Trembath will be guiding the historical team in workshops and online through the history of battles, military administration and understanding the meaning of the service records. Richard has published books on the Korean War and on war correspondents, as well as in welfare and nursing history. He has also prepared historical narratives for the Australian War Memorial and has a deep knowledge of the history of both world wars. He will be in charge of selecting the units for research so that we build a representative sample over the full course of the war.

The historical team will tabulate soldiers' actual service experience and often towards the end of a service record you can find that done already by the DVA and typed up. We need to know how long a soldier was under fire, if at all, how often he fell ill and with what, whether he offended against military discipline, what wounds and psychological problems were reported.

But we also need to find out as much as we can about his social background, work skills, family, literacy, and about his life after the war. We can use TROVE, the digitised newspapers from the National Library of Australia, and the digitised prison records from the Victorian Archives Centre (PROV). Ancestry unfortunately will no longer be helpful. Its Australian Death Index has many Victorian omissions (this author's grandparents, for instance, cannot be found.) Therefore we will need to use the CD versions of the Index. If you already have copies, please use it. If not, our research assistants will need to find the death certificate reference for you. **Janet McCalman** will be the leader of the social history research in the project.

The analysis of the data will be conducted by **Rebecca Kippen** and **John Hopper** and the entire team will work together to design the project's questions. **Tricia Curry** and **Nola Beagley** will support the volunteers, do the searching for deaths and check and validate the data. And **Garry McLoughlin** will liaise with the medical

volunteers, providing support and coding the findings.

How we will work

The work will be different from the Ships Project. Volunteers will need to fill out question books and then code up a spreadsheet. Medical volunteers will be working with complex files in the Public Record Office and will probably find it easier to produce hand-written notes on question books. This way we will have a paper record that can be locked away securely, as well as an electronic summary and coded results spreadsheet.

Confidentiality will be a requirement of the DVA and we will not be publishing data online as we have with the convicts. The historical project will be dealing only with information already in the public domain, but the DVA files can contain letters and notes that refer to living descendants.

The workshops, as we discovered with the Ships Project, make a big difference to both volunteers' confidence and enjoyment of the project. We hope it becomes a way we can all make new friends and enjoy working with others and sharing what we find.

To register your interest in volunteering, please email Tricia Curry at yaboo22@gmail.com.

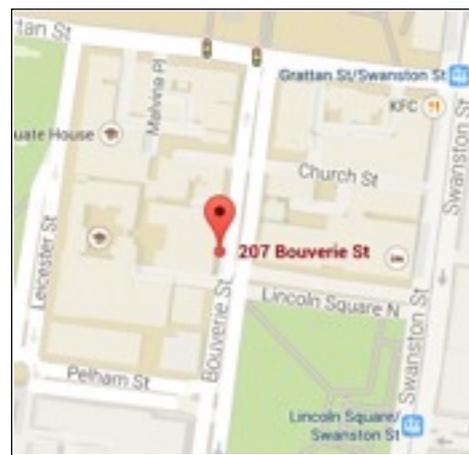
We expect to start work in May 2015 and will contact you in good time for the first workshop

Workshops will be held on Saturdays at the Centre for Health Equity, and unfortunately we won't be able to support volunteers in other states or overseas.

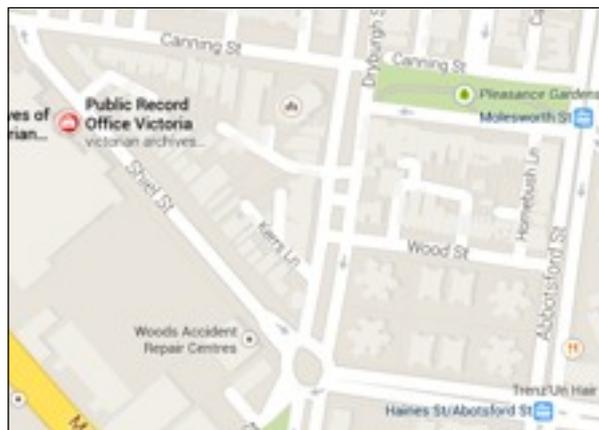
Richard Trembath will guide volunteers through the history of the war, and volunteers will have their own units of men to research. Those who had a DVA file will have a page in their service record that gives us their reference number. With that we can order the DVA file from the Victorian Archives Centre in Shiel Street, North Melbourne. The medical team will need to work there, which we hope they'll enjoy: good coffee and gourmet lunches, with public transport and parking.

Venues

Centre for Health Equity, 4th Floor, **Melbourne School of Population Health**, University of Melbourne, **207 Bouverie St, Carlton**.



The medical team will meet at their convenience, we hope at least once a week on a regular basis, at the **Victorian Archives Centre, Shiel St, North Melbourne**



Convict Artists: Thomas Bock



Jenny Wells discovered Thomas Bock while working on one of her ships.

Thomas Bock was born in Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, in 1790. He became a chorister at nearby Litchfield Cathedral and later was apprenticed to Thomas Brandard, an engraver at Birmingham. On completion of his apprenticeship he set up as an engraver and miniature painter in London and in 1817 was awarded the silver medal by the Society of Arts and Commerce for an engraving of a portrait.

He married Charity Broome in Birmingham in 1814 and had five children by July 1823. In April of that year he was found guilty of administering drugs to a young woman named Ann Yates with intent to procure an abortion. He was sentenced to fourteen years transportation and arrived in Hobart aboard the *Asia* in January 1824. Exemplary conduct gained him a conditional pardon in June 1832 and a free pardon in November of that year. The details of Charity's later life is not known, but it could not have been easy being left with five children under ten, with the baby only six months old when her husband was transported. Her second daughter Emma died aged nine years in 1827 and her elder son Edwin died aged 17 in 1838. In the 1841 census she is recorded as living of independent means with her

second son, Thomas, who was then eighteen. She died in 1844.

Bock's career as an engraver flourished in his new environment. In 1824 he engraved a plate for a four pound note for the directors of the Van Diemen's Land Bank to great acclaim and several other commissions followed. In 1831 he had a gallery in Liverpool St. Hobart and later moved to Campbell St. where he gave lessons in painting and as the first professional painter in the colony became well known for his portraits of wealthy settlers.

Lady Jane Franklin commissioned him to paint portraits of some Tasmanian Aborigines including her adopted daughter Mahinna and these now hang in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. In 1843 Bock visited Sydney but returned to exhibit at the first major art exhibition in Hobart in 1845. He maintained his early interest in music, importing a Broadwood piano and allowing it to be played by professional musicians at various recitals.

He also started a new family. The first of his six sons was born in 1835 and the youngest in 1853. He is often referred to as having five colonial born children but one son died aged 10 years of scarlet fever. He married the boys' mother, Mary Ann Spencer, in 1850. Mary Ann was twenty five years his junior and some time after Thomas' death in 1855 she married Mr. James Wilshire and had

another three daughters. She died in 1898 aged 83.

Thomas died in 1855 leaving his wife and family in straightened circumstances. His son Alfred opened an exhibition of his paintings and many advertisements for their sale at bargain rates appeared in the Hobart press. Alfred became a well respected artist and photographer introducing daguerreotype technique to the colony. In 1862 he created the dies for a series of Tasmanian stamps. He married and fathered six children before moving to Sale, Victoria, for several years. His wife died there in 1875 and he married a second time in Melbourne in 1882, returned to Tasmania and died in Wynyard aged 85.

Alfred was joined in Sale by his brother Frederick who married and had three children before dying there in 1938. William Bock also followed his father's profession in New Zealand, becoming a successful engraver and producing many illuminated addresses for the New Zealand government to be presented to visiting dignitaries. Two of his daughters brought one of Thomas' early works, the painting of Lady Franklin's adopted aboriginal daughter, back to Tasmania from Wellington so it could be displayed at the Tasmanian Art Gallery. Arthur Bock moved to New South Wales, married in St. Leonards and died in Chatswood so the Bock descendants are now spread throughout Australia.

Who's Who & Where...

University of Tasmania

Associate Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart

Dr Alison Alexander

Professor Alison Venn

Professor Haydn Walters

Associate Professor John Bass AM

University of Melbourne

Professor Janet McCalman

Dr Rebecca Kippen

Professor Shyamali Dharmage

Dr James Bradley

Sandra Silcot

Associate Professor Gavan McCarthy

Australian National University

Dr Len Smith

Flinders University of South Australia

Associate Professor Ralph Shlomowitz

Dr Peter Gunn

All Souls College, University of Oxford

Dr Deborah Oxley

Monash University

Professor Michael Shields

University of Guelph, Canada

Professor Kris Inwood

University of Ohio, Columbus

Professor Richard Steckel

Founders & Survivors: Australian life courses in historical context 1803–1985, funded by the Australian Research Council, the Institute for the Broadband Enabled Society (IBES) and the Australian National Data Service (ANDS).

Centre for Health Equity,
University of Melbourne, Vic, 3010, Australia
(Victorian inquiries)

Do you want your convict's original record transcribed?

The Port Arthur Historic Sites Resource Centre offers a range of services:

Research

We can provide copies of records relating to Tasmanian Convicts held at the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office. They can include:

- Conduct/Police record
- Indent (which may provide details of relatives)
- Physical description
- Appropriation list
- Surgeon's report (of the voyage to the colony)
- Application for permission to marry.

We can check a variety of indexes for further reference to a convict and can conduct a name search to determine whether a person arrived in Tasmania as a convict.

Transcriptions

For those having difficulty deciphering the abbreviations often found on conduct records, indents or description lists, we can assist by producing a typed transcription.

Fees

Minimum Fee – \$35 (includes up to 1 hour search/transcription time).

In excess of one hour, at the hourly rate of \$35 per hour (or part thereof).

Additional costs include printouts @ \$0.66 per page, plus postage and packing.

Most basic searches take 1–2 hours and are completed within 4–6 weeks of request.

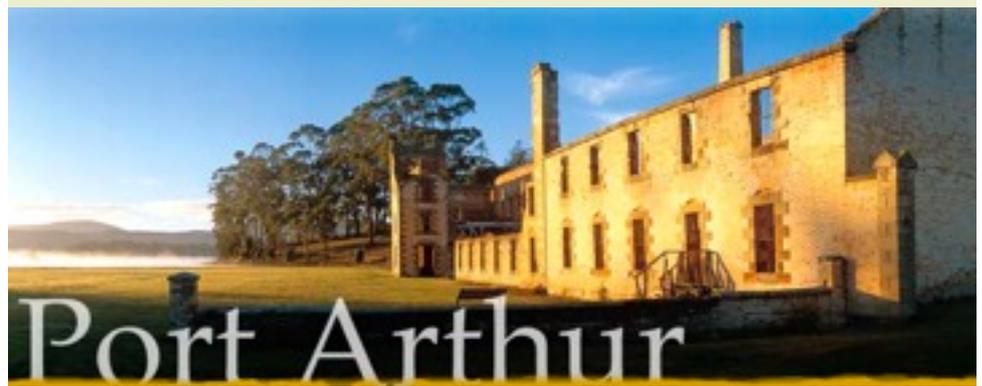
Go to <http://www.portarthur.org.au/index.aspx?id=7942> for the online enquiry form.

Contact

For more information about our Enquiry Service contact our Resource Centre

Ph: +61 (0)3 6251 2324 / 6251 2326

Fax: +61 (0)3 6251 2322



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