

MEDIA RELEASE

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Summer School students to take Franklin House back to colonial times

The bushranger Matthew Brady may have been captured in the rural environs of Franklin House in Northern Tasmania but these days Franklin ‘Village’ is no more, replaced by urban sprawl.

The National Trust’s goal for visitors to visualize Franklin House in its colonial setting will be given a boost **tomorrow** (Thursday 14 January) when students from the Tasmanian Creative Arts Summer School visit the stately property.

University of Tasmania lecturer Dr Deb Malor said that she wants her Summer School students studying *Australia, Art and Design* to visit Franklin House to consider how visitors might be helped to see it as part of a colonial village.

“Franklin House was once a significant building in Franklin Village, the first stop for colonists journeying to Hobart,” she said.

“The village had four inns, its own St James Church, and nearby were Kerry Lodge Farm, the Greycliffe home of the Franklin House builder Britton Jones, and the rural property of Marchington,” she said.

“I want the students to think about how we can help people to make that connection alive in today’s environment.

“It’s a lot of work for the imagination for people visiting there today. It’s much easier when you’re visiting a site such as Woolmers because its surrounding environment is almost intact.”

Chris Tassell from the National Trust said the Trust was documenting Franklin House’s colonial surroundings.

“Strathroy Bridge, convict-built in stone in 1837, existed then as did Greycliffe which was built in 1849,” he said.

Military barracks were nearby, as was the Sir William Wallace Inn was built in 1843 and run by Richard Chugg who owned a local 800 acre property.

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