

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: WEDNESDAY 6 JULY 2011

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



National history conference: scandalous governesses, divorce Australian-style and Alfred Deakin on boom and bust

Australian historians will take to the Tasmanian countryside on the third day of the Australian Historical Association's national conference at the University of Tasmania in Launceston, Tasmania.

They will visit prominent properties in the northern midlands as well as the historic village of Ross and the colonial Somercotes property at Ross, described by bushranger Martin Cash as "a fortress" following his 1843 raid.

Other highlights include the following papers:

- *The edges of politeness: what gossip and scandal tell us about the lives of governesses in 19th Century Australia*: Independent scholar Kate Neilson Matthew looks at forms of gossip and scandal surrounding some of Australia's governesses to see what they tell about the kinds of lives the women led. 11am-12.30pm, auditorium Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.
- *Alfred Deakin and the Melbourne land boom*: Judith Brett and Alex McDermott of La Trobe University discuss how Deakin was heavily involved in the boom and bust, chairing meetings of angry shareholders and defending leading land boomers in legal cases - and how this affected his thinking on federation. 11am-12.30pm, room 192 Academy of the Arts.
- *The one single primary cause: divorce and heterosexual pleasure in 1950s Australia*: Lisa Featherstone, University of Newcastle, explains at this time rising divorce rates were commonly linked to sexual dissatisfaction in the marital bed and how this was linked to social and sexual disorder. 11am-12.30pm, auditorium Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.
- *'Trawling through a treasure trove'*: Sal Klein from the National Trust discusses how the addition of the Examiner (from 1842) and Hobart Courier (from 1827) newspapers to Trove, the online repository of historical information for researchers, has provided a wealth of new information on the daily lives of early Tasmanians. 11am-12.30pm, room 231 School of Architecture and Design.
- *Keeping it in the family: incest on the frontier*: Yorick Smaal of Griffith University discusses his research on the prevalence of incest in colonial

Queensland between 1860 and 1901 and how the state tried to deal with it. 11am-12.30pm, Room 181, Academy of the Arts.

■ *Tasmanian bush nursing*: Marita Bardenhagen from the University of Tasmania says the isolated bush nursing centres 1910-1957 were often in tents or makeshift facilities such as on muttonbirding islands, and bush nurses often had no electricity or telephones and little professional equipment. 11am-12.30pm, auditorium Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

■ *The debate on the Commonwealth take-over of the Northern Territory, 1910*: Bob Reece from Murdoch University maintains that scant thinking by politicians and a lack of forward planning has meant that notionally temporary legislation to achieve the takeover had to serve as its constitutional basis for decades to come. 11am-12.30pm, Annexe Theatre.

■ *The end of life at the edge of the world: a history of aged care in Tasmania*: Elaine Crisp from the University of Tasmania maintains that the current 'aged care crisis' is not new in Tasmania as she traces the issue of aged care from colonial times to today. 11am-12.30pm, seminar room 118, School of Architecture and Design.

■ *Talking about our generation: the significance of 'generation' in Australian history and memory*: Alistair Thomson of Monash University discusses a history project which will interview 300 Australians born between 1920 and 1990, asking how important memory is in creating a national identity. 11am-12.30pm, meeting room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

Media are welcome to organise interviews with conference speakers. Contact Sharon Webb, University of Tasmania, ph. 0438 510 616.

Information Released by:

UTAS Communications and Media, University of Tasmania

Phone: 6324 3218 Mobile: 0438 510 616

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au

