

CASCADES FEMALE FACTORY

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“Whispers”

Change is A'foot!

Visitors and residents to the South Hobart area will have noticed the changes that are starting to happen on the site.

Work on the wonderful historic stone wall that fronts Degraeves Street is about half way completed. The wall foundation has been stabilised using a deep grout injection method. A two part mix was injected beneath the wall footing at 1.5 metre intervals and the grout pumped in to fill the voids. This work was undertaken inside the wall. The temporary wooden bracing will remain in place until stage 2 is completed. Currently this is expected to take the form of a two storey steel structure of the proportions of the Superintendent's residence and office quarters. The wall will be “tied” to this structure, which will eventually feature a viewing platform. The final design and approval for this stage of the work is still in progress.

Meanwhile in the section of Yard 4 which fronts Syme St. all the old sheds and the below surface petrol tank have been removed.

Some changes can be observed on the outside of the Matron's Cottage with woodwork on windows etc. being repaired and painted. In addition the rest of the brickwork that covered the historic wooden door leading to the Messenger's Room has been removed. Part of the door has been removed for safety and will be conserved prior to the door treatment being completed.

Much of the work being undertaken in the Cottage is not yet apparent but it is hoped the work will be completed within the next month or so. Two rooms are being conserved and restored – The Matron's Bedroom and Parlour. New electrical wiring and meter box have been installed, old dados removed,



revealing several layers of old wallpaper, walls poulticed, floor joists renewed and repaired where required, flooring repaired, heaters installed together with plastering and painting. All time consuming and expensive work which has been under the direction of a Consultant Architect working with the benefit of advice from Heritage Tasmania.

The work will be completed for the coming tourist season enabling the important restoration work to be shown and allowing the resumption of our popular tour “Morning Tea with the Matron”.

Volunteers Wanted!!

Looking for something different to do? Look no further! Come and join our volunteer team, they are a great group of people drawn from all walks of life, all professions and ages and most importantly have fun while helping.

Currently our site is open between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday with volunteers assisting in a variety of jobs on this important National Heritage Site.

Our volunteers help in our site shop and are often the tourist's first experience of the site. We aim to provide excellent customer service and information on the Female Factory experience. Training is provided by senior volunteers for this important role. Volunteers can also undertake training to become a tour guide under the supervision of our senior tour guides if they wish. Many of our volunteers who were originally not interested in becoming a guide have gone on to become some of our best volunteer guides.

Others assist with various administration tasks and many become involved in the presentation of major events, arts projects and exhibition preparation.

So if you have a half day, a day or more to spare do get in touch. We would love to hear from you!

Call Veronica or Shirley on 6223 1559

Volunteer Profile

Loretta Atkins

One of our most valued senior volunteers; Loretta has been involved at the FFHS for over six years.



In charge of the site shop, her marketing skills and eye for detail have been integral in helping to develop a range of totally Tasmanian products, including the Matron's Pantry range, that are extremely popular with locals and visiting tourists alike.

Married to John and having two daughters Bethany and Rowena, Loretta is always greatly involved in major events at the site.

National Heritage Brochure

A very attractive small brochure on the Cascades Female Factory has been produced by the Australian Government and is available in the Site Shop free of charge.

Another brochure will also soon be available listing and showing all 76 Australian sites that have been honoured by their inclusion on the prestigious National Heritage List.

Schools and Community Groups who would like to obtain multiple copies for their students and members should call 6223 1559 and mention the National Heritage List brochure and we will be happy to assist.

2008 Anniversary Programme

Celebrate our 180th birthday with us, be a part of our history! Listed below is the proposed programme of events for the remainder of 2008

June and July

- Exhibition – WD Booth Gallery 13/6/08 – 22/8/08
Elizabeth Fry – Quaker Prison Reformer

September and October

- Exhibition – WD Booth Gallery 5/9/08 – 24/10/08
Louisa Meredith – Colonial Artist
- Possible Recital – Spring Song

November and December

- Exhibition – WD Booth Gallery 14/11/08 – 19/12/08
Children's Games in the Colony

Our Tours

The tour of the historic site includes yards 1 and 3 of the original complex with interpretive plaques, archaeological digs and the Matron's Cottage in Yard 4. The Memorial Gardens, created in Memory of the women and children who passed through the site are

particularly beautiful and are often used for wedding photography and small functions. There is usually an exhibition on view in the W.D. Booth Gallery space available in the Matron's Cottage.

Be sure to visit our Totally Tasmanian Shop in Yard 3 of the site and featuring a range of fine Tasmanian products ranging from chocolates, sweets, jams and preserves, tea and coffee, chutneys, relishes, sauces and mustards, t-shirts and aprons, hand made jewellery, books and biscuits.

Our shop is open from 9am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday (except Public Holidays). You can be sure of a warm welcome from our great volunteer team.

Tours (Bookings Essential)

1 Dec to 30 April 9:30am & 2pm

1 May to 30 Nov 9:30am only

Large groups by appointment

Morning Tea with the Matron

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:30am

Bookings must be made at least 24 hours in advance

Exhibition

Louisa Meredith – Colonial Artist

See some of this amazing colonial artist's superb work in our exhibition that opens on 5th September

Performance

Watch this space for details of a superb performance in the Matron's Cottage in August by a talented lutenist from Saudi Arabia.

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"Whispers" is an initiative of the:
Female Factory Historic Site Ltd.