

## Richmond History Festival - History Conference:

18 - 22 January, 2024

### List of speakers, paper abstracts, and CVs

#### 1. Theresa Sainty:

##### ***Recognising the Mumirimina people of the Oyster Bay Nation***

Theresa Sainty will speak about the importance of recognising the Mumirimina people and the Oyster Bay nation as the owners of the unceded country now known as Richmond and the Coal River Valley. Dispossession and destruction inflicted on the Palawa people as Richmond was established sit in stark contrast to the benefits that accrued to settlers and their descendants. Recent publications provide details of local history that should be acknowledged. Theresa will introduce her work with the Clarence City Council to develop and install interpretation panels and objects on the Coal River banks that seek to redress the absence of knowledge and recognition of traditional owners.

Theresa Sainty is a Pakana (Tasmanian Aboriginal) woman. She is an experienced and highly skilled consultant with a history in Government, program evaluation, curriculum development, and public speaking. She is a Senior Indigenous Scholar with UTAS, undertaking a PhD which is a continuation of her decades-long research (which began in 1997) as Aboriginal Linguistic Consultant with the palawa kani Language Program. Recently, Theresa has also worked as a cultural advisor on projects with Roar Film, the National Maritime Museum of Australia, the ABC, Hobart Female Factory, Mona and Mona Foma, and the Clarence City Council. Theresa provides cultural advice to assist Richmond Bicentenary planning and programming – not to celebrate – but to once again have a long-absent visual presence of the First People of what is now known as Richmond/Coal River Valley.

#### 2. Henry Reynolds:

##### ***Keynote Address:***

##### ***April 1804—The Most Consequential Moment in the History of the Coal River***

A paper which will consider the experience of the Oyster Bay people as they sought to come to terms with the visit of the Baudin expedition to Maria Island in 1802 and the arrival of the British/Colonial expedition on the western edge of their traditional territory in 1803.

Professor Henry Reynolds is an eminent Australian historian and a Richmond resident.

#### 3. Alison Alexander:

##### ***Success and failure: lands grants in the Richmond district***

A variety of convicts and free settlers received land grants in the Richmond area. They had to make a living from virgin bush. How many succeeded and how many failed? And why?

Dr Alison Alexander has written more than 30 books about various aspects of Tasmania's history, from the Zinc Works to the Clarence Football Club, Jane Franklin to Patricia Giles. At present she is looking at what people did with their land grants in the early nineteenth century.

#### 4. Wayne Smith:

##### ***The secrets behind the naming of Richmond***

When Richmond was named in 1824 it was honouring the British Secretary of State Lord Henry Bathurst in a misleading way which I will outline at the forthcoming Bicentenary. In the early years of Australia it was commonplace to name new towns after the incumbent Secretary of State e.g. Sydney and Hobart. Perth was named after the birthplace of the Secretary of State. All will be revealed as to how Richmond and surrounding areas received their names.

Wayne Smith has co-written with the late John Taylor an unpublished work titled 'Tasmanian Placenames' that was lodged with the State Library of Tasmania in 1993. Wayne appeared on ABC Radio Nomenclature Talk-back as a guest of Chris Wisbey monthly for an incredible 20 years. He has published 4 books on history and nomenclature, three were best sellers. He has been a guest speaker for many years on historical and nomenclature topics and currently lectures weekly for U3A Clarence at Rosny Library on Clarence History.

#### 5. Leon Atkinson-MacEwen:

##### ***Gilbert Robertson - Richmond farmer, Chief District Constable, and political gadfly***

Gilbert Robertson was an active member of the Richmond community in the 1820s and 1830s. He farmed in the district, was one of the men instrumental in establishing the Richmond Agricultural Society, and between 1828 and 1832 he also served as Chief District Constable. His farming ambitions at Richmond were thwarted in 1832 when Lt-Governor Arthur denied him the use of convict workers. As a result, Robertson turned to journalism, and used the pages of *The Colonist* and *The True Colonist* newspapers to condemn corruption and abuses of the law, and to argue for the rights of the settlers and emancipated convicts to representative government and trial by jury. Robertson's greatest passion was agriculture, however,

and one historian observed of him that “once fairly launched on the subject of colonial agriculture he went on until the paper was used up”.

His enthusiasm for agricultural improvement was strongly linked to his experiences as a farmer, first in Scotland and then at Richmond, and he retained his links to Richmond and the Richmond Agricultural Society throughout his residency in Van Diemen’s Land. He was also a passionate defender of the settlers of the district, arguing at length for better road access from Richmond to the port of Hobart, and for the establishment of a school of agriculture to assist farmers to implement the latest developments in scientific agriculture. My paper examines Robertson’s links with Richmond, and the ways in which he used his journalism to promote the best interests of the settlers, not only in Richmond, but across Van Diemen’s Land.

Dr Atkinson-MacEwen has held a number of senior appointments in the Commonwealth, Tasmanian and Queensland public service. He has recently completed a PhD at the Media School of the University of Tasmania investigating the journalism of Gilbert Robertson, editor of *The Colonist* (1832-1834) and *The True Colonist* (1834-1844) newspapers, and the political and social issues he championed. He is currently researching the journalism of Robert Lathrop Murray, Gilbert Robertson’s main rival as a journalist during the Arthur and Franklin administrations.

## 6. Cassandra Pybus:

### ***Gilbert Robertson: Heathcliff in Van Diemen’s Land***

Gilbert Robertson Esq arrived in the colony of Van Diemen’s Land in 1822, carrying a letter from the Secretary of State instructing the governor to provide him with a land grant. He was from one of the best families in Scotland, having grown up in the household of his paternal grandfather, a well-placed minister in the Church of Scotland, who was the younger son of the chief of the Clan Robertson of Kindeace. One of his uncles was the powerful merchant Samuel Sandbach, who had big mercantile interests in Glasgow and Liverpool, while another uncle was Doctor Thomas Traill, a famous professor at Edinburgh University. Among his distant cousins was the future prime minister, William Gladstone.

By 1832 Gilbert Robertson had alienated every man in authority in the colony and become editor of a radical newspaper *The True Colonist*. Over the next five years he was intermittently gaoled for libel against the Lt Governor, the Colonial Secretary, the Solicitor-General and the Attorney-General. During Sir John Franklin’s tenure he was forever firing off complaints about the governor to the British Secretary of State and prominent members of British Parliament, such as Joseph Hulme. Political agitation and resulting libel suits continued until he had lost all his property and was forced to give up the newspaper. By 1847 he was persona non grata in Van Diemen’s Land, and moved to the Port Phillip District as overseer at a property at Colac. During his attempt to get elected to Geelong Town Council the local newspaper declared that ‘any honest man would be preferable to Mr Robertson’ and he aroused a very heated response with his campaign for the new Victorian Legislative Council in 1851. While riding to Colac to nominate a candidate on 5 September 1851, he suffered a massive heart attack that caused him to fall from his horse and expire, leaving his wife and daughters destitute.

Gilbert Robertson was a man almost pathologically inclined to get into trouble. Yet it is hard to see why particular gentleman fared especially badly in a colony full of chancers and rogues, given that he had better family connections and better education than much of the colonial elite. His problem was not so much how he behaved, as how he looked. “You have seen this man’ his neighbour George Weston Gunning remonstrated in a letter to the Colonial Secretary in 1824. The unspoken accusation, never declared in public, was that Gilbert Robertson was not a white man. He may have been raised and educated within an illustrious family in Scotland, but he was born to an enslaved African mother in Caribbean. I see him as a match for Heathcliff, the mercurial antihero of *Wuthering Heights*, which makes him a particularly rich subject for teasing out the complications of early colonial Australia.

Professor Cassandra Pybus is a distinguished historian who has held research professorships at the University of Sydney, Georgetown University in Washington, DC, the University of Texas and King’s College London. The author of twelve books, her most recent book, *Truganini*, won the National Biography Award and was short-listed for The Prime Minister’s Literary Award.

## 7. Miles Verschuur:

### ***From Military Base to Prisoner of War Camp: Richmond, the Coal Valley, and their roles in the Tasmanian War.***

Changi to Fort Bragg, German Dulags to Pearl Harbour, to Richmond, Tasmania? Although this may seem incredulous, with some rereading of already established historiography through a new lens, it is possible to see how Richmond fulfilled the functions of both Prisoner of War Camp and Military Base during the Black War, the most intense period of domestic conflict in Australian history. The Coal Valley and its surrounds was the epicentre of the warfare waged between the traditional custodians, Oyster Bay-Big River People, led by figures such as Tongerlongeter, and the colonising British. As established by historians including Henry Reynolds and Nicholas Clements, nowhere in Australia was warfare so intense or evenly matched. Therefore, the town of Richmond’s role in this conflict must be reconsidered. Although the establishment of the town was based on governmental abilities to control convicts, the presence of armed forces enabled attacks to be made against Indigenous peoples. Richmond was not only a base for magisterial expeditions but for the infamous private roving parties and was a key location in the failed Black Line operation, the largest military expedition on Australian soil. Coupled with holding captured Aboriginal people in the Gaol, the town possessed a role of importance during this conflict. This raises considerable questions as to the nature of the bicentenary celebrations. How can Richmond reconcile with this past? How

does this compare with its commemoration of Australia's overseas wars? What role does the architecture of the town play in these questions? Can Richmond be a beacon for reconciliation under the Uluru Statement from the Heart? This paper consults a wide range of primary sources and historical interpretations to establish that Richmond must address its role in the conflict "in Australia, for Australia."

Miles Verschuur is a young amateur historian from Gippsland, Victoria. A member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Miles is a previous state winner of the National History Challenge and Australian History Competition for an essay discussing the reckoning of explorer Angus McMillian and the "Gippsland Massacres" in his local community. Miles' main areas of interest are the Australian frontier wars, Australian labour histories, and observing how the History Wars have shaped his ongoing educational experience.

## 8. Rebecca Read:

### ***George Grover: Convict Flagellator***

While flogging is part of Australian folklore, very little is known about flagellators. Using George Grover and other examples, this paper reveals how administrators selected flagellators and how they viewed them, how often flagellators wielded the lash in Richmond in the early 1830s, and what they might have done when there was no flogging to do. It also reveals the geographical and logistical complexities that prevented flogging from always being the quick and easy punishment option historians generally suppose it was.

Dr Rebecca Read grew up in Sydney and moved to Hobart in 1989. Although she avoided studying history in high school, her interest in family history eventually led to post-graduate study in history. She received a PhD degree in August 2020 for her thesis entitled 'Convict Assignment and Prosecution Risk in Van Diemen's Land, 1830-1835'. She has been a member of the Diploma of Family History teaching team at UTAS and conducted workshops for the Tasmanian Family History Society. She has also worked as a research assistant for several professional historians and has managed the Family Search family history centre at Derwent Park since 2010.

## 9. Bradley Wood:

### ***Henry Rice: From Calcutta Convict to Coal River Farmer***

In December 1820 a small expedition, departed from Henry Rice's farm along the Coal River near present-day Richmond, to explore and report on the prospects of the East Coast of Van Diemen's Land for future settlement. Ex-convict Henry Rice led the party as an official explorer for the colonial government. Why Lieutenant-Governor Sorell appointed him may be explained by a certain desperation on Sorell's part due to a lack of qualified surveyors in the colony at the time. Prior to this Rice had been a thief, a sailor, a prisoner and an escapee. He had also been servant to G W Gunning, the settler and local magistrate at the Coal River. While undertaking these duties, Rice had incurred the wrath of the merchant Roland Loane who was said to declare that 'if it cost him one thousand pounds sterling, he would hang Rice.'

The only historian to produce a biography of Henry Rice has been Marjorie Tipping in her ground-breaking magnum opus *Convicts Unbound*. However, Tipping's attempt is unreferenced and contains significant factual errors and incorrect inferences. In this paper I attempt to return the real story of Henry Rice to the local Richmond community and solve some mysteries about his identity along the way.

Bradley Wood is a writer and historical researcher who, as a partner in an education consultancy business, develops learning materials for libraries, museums, heritage sites and schools. In the past he has worked on archaeological excavations in Sydney, Tasmania and in Ypres, Belgium. His most recent article was a finalist in the Forty South Van Diemen History Prize 2020/21 and was published in *The Van Diemen Anthology 2021*, as *The Mysterious Journey of Captain Charles Bayley's Cane*.

## 10. Denise Jeffrey:

### ***John Burden: the Richmond Years***

My Covid project was to discover the history of the Burden family in Tasmania that provides an historical context for today's Burden descendants. Our family history was mostly lost when my grandfather and 6 of his 8 siblings were committed to the Neglected Children's Department in 1916. They never re-connected as a family and consequently we know very little of our forebears. Archival records and the first Valuation Rolls for Clarence and Richmond unravelled the whereabouts of father and son Thomas and John Burden. Both farmed in the Richmond district where John lived for 23 years between 1855 and 1878. Nineteenth century newspaper and gazette reports colour John's Tasmanian life. Family documents found in a farm safe at Ensay, Victoria contribute to the family story. John worked as a storekeeper, coach service proprietor and leased a brickyard in Richmond before creditors called in his debts. The Burden story encompasses convictism, free settler opportunism and Victorian family life. Maintaining familial ties between Great Britain and Van Diemen's Land and within the Australian colonies is inherent to the story. This research verifies and records aspects of the lives of the first 2 generations of Burdens in Van Diemen's Land. It is being made public for the first time.

Denise retired in 2016 after a 33 year career at the State Library of Tasmania. She volunteered at the Army Museum of Tasmania Library at Anglesea Barracks for 5 years until April 2022. Denise now volunteers for the Tasman Forester History Group, holding the position of Research Officer since 2021. Volunteering complements her family history research that is centred on the Tasman Peninsula.

## 11. Michelle Harris:

### *Reverend David Galer*

The basis of this presentation will be a paper I have written for the CRVHS bicentennial journal entitled 'What the Reverend Saw.' I look at Reverend Galer's life, starting with his appointment to the Female House of Correction as a religious instructor and then his move to St Luke's, Richmond, and purchase of Oak Lodge. The bulk of the piece is about him finding the body of John Dowling very soon after he was murdered, and his involvement in the inquest and trial; he seems to have been rather an amateur detective! I look at the changes Rev Galer oversaw to the interior structure of St Luke's Church at Richmond and the strange swap he did with Rev Fookes from St Andrews Church, Perth.

Born and raised in West Moonah, Michelle Harris attended Ogilvie High School and Elizabeth College where she discovered a passion for The Arts. Michelle completed a double English major, gaining First Class Honours and the first University Medal awarded in English at UTAS. Employed for Term Three in 1991 whilst still finishing her Dip Ed, Michelle taught at Hobart College, moving to Guilford Young College in 1996: she still teaches there 28 years later. Moving to Richmond in 2008, Michelle's interest was piqued by the beautiful buildings of the township and the desire to find out their history. A member of the CRVHS, Michelle has worked on three journals and with a small but enthusiastic group to catalogue the Oak Lodge Collection on eHive. From 2018 – 2020, Michelle had a walking tour business called Time Tours, offering themed day and night tours including tours of the historic parts of Richmond's three cemeteries. The latter led to the development of a book of self-guided tours of Richmond's pre-1900 graves, called *Beginning at the End: Exploring Richmond's Historic Cemeteries*.

## 12. Madonna Grehan:

### *"Midwifery Paid": The practice of James Murdoch MD, physician and obstetrician in Van Diemen's Land 1822-1848*

James Murdoch (1785-1848) is recognised in Coal River Valley history for his farm "Craigow", established in the mid-1820s near Cambridge. Murdoch was an avid agriculturalist who produced apples, mulberries, wheat, barley, poppies and medicinal plants. In contrast to his agrarian pursuits, Murdoch's contribution to medical practice in the colony is less well documented. Born in Scotland, Murdoch graduated from Edinburgh University's medical school in 1809 then specialised in maternity care. He was a physician accoucheur (obstetrician) and Lecturer in Midwifery to the New Town Dispensary, a charitable institution in Edinburgh for eleven years. As a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh, he authored a 48-page treatise on the management of the placenta in childbirth. Murdoch arrived in Van Diemen's Land in March 1822 and advised his intention to practice medicine from Liverpool Street Hobart, chiefly, the care of women and children. As was customary in Scotland, Murdoch offered treatment free to the poor and provision of midwifery lectures to paying pupils. His practice took him around the Coal River Valley region, to Hobart, south to Petchey's and Birch's Bays, north to Launceston, and north-east to Oyster Bay.

This paper highlights Dr Murdoch's sustained contribution to Tasmania's early medical practice, particularly his maternity work. Drawing on Murdoch's 1810-1829 diary and contemporaneous primary sources, I discuss his patient cohort, treatment of illnesses and ailments, his fees, and his teaching of midwifery.

Dr Madonna Grehan OAM is an independent historian. She is a Registered Nurse and Midwife, with qualifications in health ethics and history (PhD Melb.). She is an interviewer for the National Library of Australia's Oral History and Folklore Collection. Her research interests include midwifery, nursing, and the care of women in Australia since 1790, oral history, social history, biography, and material culture. She is immediate Past President of the Medical History Society of Victoria and a Past President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine. Madonna is in her 17th year as a volunteer social-history tour guide at the Abbotsford Convent in Melbourne.

## 13. Louise Zarmati:

### *Where there's a will there's a way*

This presentation begins with a legal case that took place in the Richmond courthouse on 30 May 1831. It is the story of a young woman who gave evidence in a case in which William Harris, proprietor of the Red Cow public house at Clarence Plains, was charged with harbouring Maria Campbell "for the purpose of tippling on a Sunday".

Who was Maria Campbell and why was she "tippling" at Harris's public house on a Sunday? The Colonial Times tells us that Maria Campbell was "a woman of color (sic), a very intelligent female of 20 years of age, whose father was an European and her mother an Aboriginal Native". Although the Richmond court case was against William Harris, a more remarkable story emerged from the proceedings. Maria revealed that her father had died leaving her some property that had been withheld from her. The Court "expressed a strong interest for this young woman and advised her that she had a legal case to protect "her rights and claims". How did young Maria Campbell become homeless and without access to her rightful inheritance? And who was responsible for "casting her onto the world without protection of any kind"? An examination of primary sources reveals a complex Cinderella story of a ruthless, greedy stepmother and the struggle of a "young native girl" to claim the rightful inheritance that had been bequeathed to her in the will of her father, former Calcutta convict, Archibald Campbell.

Louise has had a varied career as a teacher, archaeologist and museum educator and now works as a Senior Lecturer in Education at the university of Tasmania. Her areas of expertise are Australian history and archaeology, museum education,

history pedagogy and curriculum design. Over the years Louise has written many textbooks and articles on teaching history and archaeology to primary and secondary students. In 2009 she was a writer of the first version of the Australian Curriculum History and Senior Ancient History courses. In 2012 Louise was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study innovative archaeology education programs overseas.

Louise has a PhD in History from Deakin University and a Master of Philosophy degree in archaeology and heritage management from the University of Cambridge. She has excavated at various sites in Greece, Cyprus, Belgium, and Australia. Her most recent excavations in Tasmania have been at Willow Court in New Norfolk, Kerry Lodge, and the Outlands guard house. Since joining UTAS in 2015, Louise has received a Vice Chancellor's Award of Community Engagement (2018) and a Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning (2019).

#### 14. Hamish-Maxwell-Stewart:

##### *Unshackling the Past: Using Digital Technologies to Reconstruct Convict Labour*

As is well-known, the 73,000 convicts transported to Van Diemen's Land were among the best documented workers in the 19th century British Empire. This has at times proved almost as much of a burden as it has an asset. The sheer volume of data available to researchers has enabled the reconstruction of individual lives in detail, but hitherto thwarted attempts to evaluate the overall impact of penal transportation. The mass digitisation of the convict archive over the last 15 or so years has done much to correct this. While the process of digitising the vast UNESCO Memory of the World convict archive progresses, the results to date have enabled historians to analyse convict work, punishment and resistance patterns at a scale which could not previously be contemplated. This presentation will summarise some of the many surprising results of this work.

Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart is a professor of Heritage and Digital Humanities at the University of New England and an associate of the Menzies Institute for Medical Research, University of Tasmania. Hamish is passionate about heritage and his other roles include CEO of Digital History Tasmania and Deputy Chair of Woolmers World Heritage Site. He has published over a hundred books, book chapters and articles including *Unfree Workers: Insubordination and Resistance in Convict Australia 1788-1860* (Palgrave 2022, authored with Michael Quinlan) and *Closing Hell's Gates* (Allen and Unwin, 2007).

#### 15. Ann Westmore:

##### *A troubled train line*

The railway line linking the south and north of Tasmania, known as the Main Line Railway, was not the first railway line in the state, but it was certainly one of the most troubled. And one of the most fraught sections of this troubled line was the section north of Richmond between Tea Tree and Rhyndaston near Colebrook. In the decade after work started on the line in 1872, numerous accidents occurred on this part of the line, and many railway workers and passengers were killed or injured. As this paper explores through press reports and photographs from the time, the explanations for these events were often inconclusive. Although much was known about acceptable gradients, rail maintenance, safe loads and techniques to guard against trains reaching excessive speeds, the authorities were often left to conclude that atmospheric and geographic conditions had combined with human error in most regrettable ways. With the benefit of hindsight and science, perhaps we can be more definitive.

After studying science at the University of Melbourne in the early 1970s, Dr Ann Westmore worked as a science and medical journalist with the Herald and Weekly Times and the medical press for over two decades. In the 1990s she returned to study and completed a Master of Science and PhD degrees in the field of history and philosophy of science. Her focus was on the interplay between society and science has resulted in several books including the co-authored biography, *Finding Sanity: John Cade, Lithium and the Taming of Bipolar Disorder* (Allen and Unwin, 2016). Ann's interest in the Tasmanian Main Line Railway stems from a family connection to William Brodribb, a convict transported to Tasmania in 1818, and his sons, who farmed in the Tea Tree-Campania area (1840-1890) through which the Main Line ran.

#### 16. Michelle Harris:

##### *Trooper Cyril Williams*

The basis of this presentation will be a paper I have written for the CRVHS bicentennial journal on the man behind the plaque on the original Village Green, Trooper Cyril Williams. Working initially with information about cases I found on Trove, I liaised with Annette May from the Police Museum and had access to Tony Grincaise's fabulous police database. Detective Senior Constable Martin White helped me gain access to the remaining Day Books from the Richmond Station (and a fabulous photograph) and Carol Horne obtained some memories from her father, a grand nephew of the Williamses. Williams's granddaughter, Sue Baker, also provided me with photos and insight.

My paper looks at the wide range of cases that Trooper Williams was involved in, from dealing with stray animals, larceny, traffic offences and drunk altercations to dodging a gunshot at close range, searching for prison escapees and for wreckage and survivors of a plane crash at Seven Mile Beach. I also look at his accommodation and modes of transport as well the commendations he received. My intention is to share some insight into the man whose name we've heard but don't know much about.

17. Ann Cripps:

*Gardeners, Plant Collectors, Friends: Coal River Valley Connections*

Tasmania has a rich heritage of gardens and gardening. However due to the transient nature of plants and gardens this part of our history is too often overlooked. The first years of the colony of Van Diemen's Land were focused on survival, and self-sufficiency in an unfamiliar land. However as gardens became more productive, the early gardeners and nurserymen realised the wealth of opportunities for plant collecting and creating gardens that were a source of enjoyment and leisure. In addition the discovery of our endemic flora involved a worldwide network of gardeners, plant collectors, nurserymen and friends. They came together to send plants and seeds to the colony. In return rare endemic plants were sent to friends, nurseries and botanical collections around the world. My presentation, will focus on some of the early gardeners and nurserymen who are part the History of the Coal River Valley. This will involve discussing the contribution of people such as James Gordon, John Osborne, Dr James Murdoch and James Ross.

Although formally trained as a Librarian, a lifelong interest in gardens and historical research led Ann to focus on the importance of gardens as part of our heritage. Ann has researched the field of historical landscapes and gardens, and plants as part of their component, and the interaction between historic buildings and their surroundings. Ann has lectured and written for many years on all aspects of Tasmanian garden history. She was a contributor to both *The Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens* (OUP 2002) and *The Companion to Tasmanian History* (UTAS 2005). As a consultant she has advised on the restoration of some of Tasmania's early gardens. Ann was commissioned to prepare a Landscape Master Plan for the Narryna Heritage Museum and she continues to volunteer and advise on the garden. Ann has been involved in the Australian Garden History Society since its foundation and attended the meeting in Melbourne which led to the formation of the Society in 1980. She was a member of the first committee of the Tasmanian Branch of the Australian Garden History Society and served as the Tasmanian representative on the National Management Committee for a number of years.

In 2019, Ann was invited to give a talk at Government House on gardeners and nurserymen of Hobart Town. The response to her lecture encouraged Ann to continue her research and to write a book on the subject. The result was her book: *Gardeners, Plant Collectors, Friends: Hobart Town and Beyond*, which was published last year. In her research for this book Ann has visited libraries and other institutions in the United Kingdom as well as in Australia, uncovering a fascinating network of gardeners, plant collectors, their families and their relationship with some of the most important botanical collections in the world.

18. Michelle Harris:

*Richmond Speedway*

The basis of this presentation will be a paper I have written for the CRVHS bicentennial journal. I cover the formation of the Old Richmond Speedway and some quirks associated with it, plus the move to the new track. I will speak about some particular race meets, such as 'World War 3 on Wheels' with the USA, grudge matches with Bridgewater, Family Fun Days and the inaugural ladies' race. There are many anecdotes and images to share. I have been working with Michelle Gunn from Richmond Speedway Inc, Craige Richardson and Shaun Kelly. There have been several people on various Facebook groups who have provided me with photos and information, and I have undertaken research through secondary sources such as *Tasmanian Speedway News*, *Tasmanian Motor Sport Annual*, and *Tasmanian Auto News*, not to mention the *Mercury*.

While I never attended the Richmond Speedway myself, and wasn't a rev-head, I can see the enormous value of the social history surrounding this institution. It is remembered so very fondly by those to whom I speak. This paper is not aimed at those who have lived experience of the Speedway, such as Tony Rooke, Craige Richardson and Shaun Kelly, but for those several people who aren't even aware it ever existed.