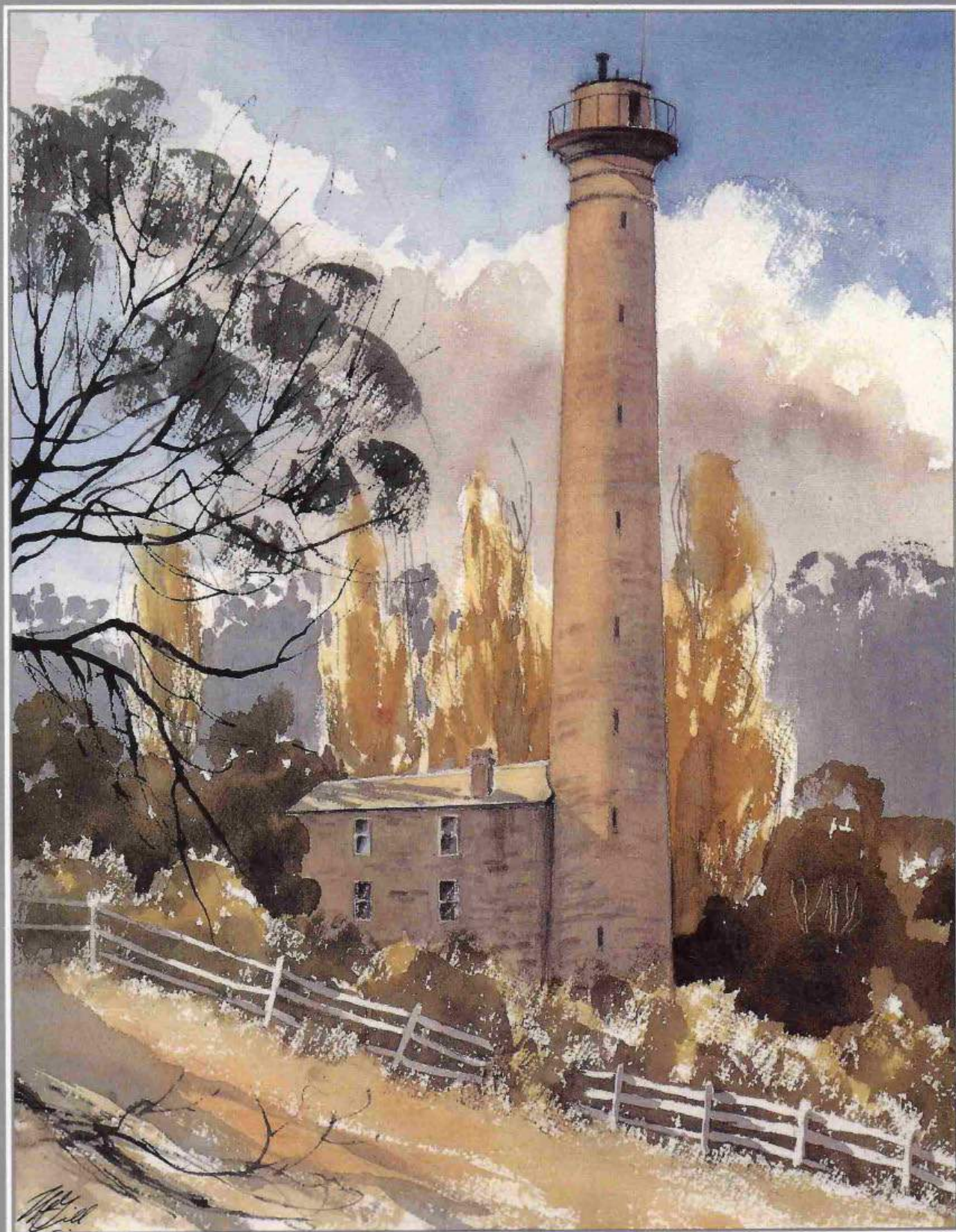


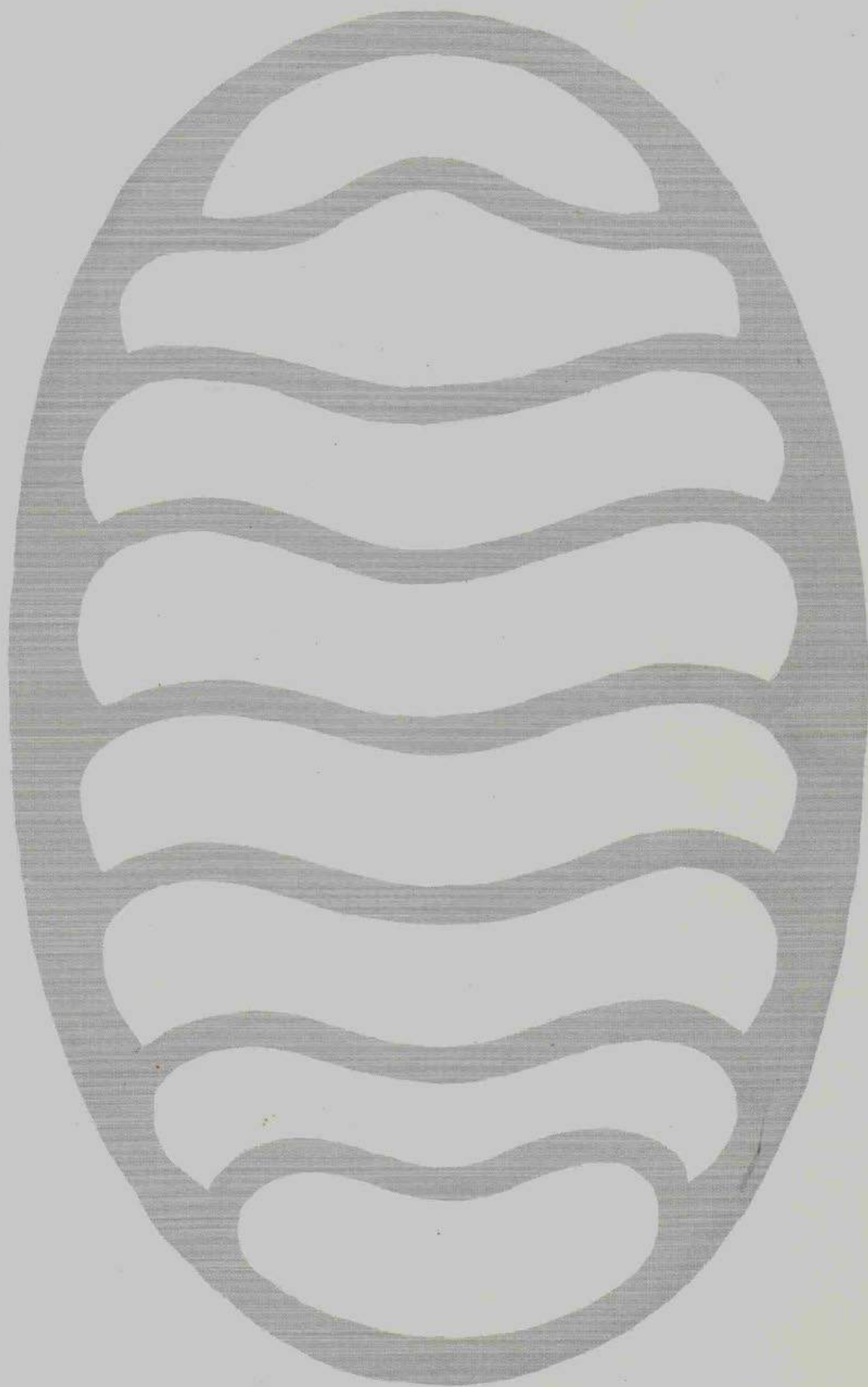
# TAROONA 1808-1986

FARM LANDS TO A GARDEN SUBURB



TAROONA HISTORICAL GROUP





# **Taroona**

**1808 - 1986**

**Farm Lands to a Garden Suburb**



*CHITON* (sea shell), called *TAROONA* by the "Tribes about Mount Royal, Brune (sic) Island, Recherche Bay and the South of Tasmania"<sup>1</sup>.

PHOTO CARL WOOD.

#### CLASSIFICATION

##### *SYPHAROCHITON PELLIS - SERPENTIS*

Quoy and Gaimard, 1835, Very Common and widely distributed in shallow water<sup>2</sup>.

#### References

- <sup>1</sup> "Vocabulary of the Dialects of some of the Aboriginal Tribes of Tasmania" by Joseph Milligan Esq. F.L.S., Tasmania, William Thomas Strutt, Government Printer, Hobart, 1890, page 20. Originally appeared in the Journals of the Royal Society of Tasmania.
- <sup>2</sup> "An Illustrated Index of Tasmanian Shells" by W.L. May and revised by J. Hope Macpherson, 1958. Page 20, plate 16, No 12.

# **TAROONA**

1808 - 1986

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The eastern side of the Shot Tower painted from  
a photograph circa 1880, by Tarooma Artist Marianne Gill.

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### **SKETCHES**

By Tarooma Artist Marianne Gill.



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## **Dedication**

This book is dedicated to all those who over the past 178 years have contributed so much to create this delightful suburb in which we live.

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## Foreword

History is not cold facts and figures. It is all about human experience and achievements. The things people do from day to day, no matter how small and mundane they appear to be, are part of and contribute to our rich social fabric that has evolved over the centuries.

Big events are noted and recorded but smaller happenings in smaller centres are transitory, soon forgotten by all except those who can still remember. As generations pass this knowledge of a community's background is lost unless action is taken by those concerned to preserve and record it.

The people of Taroona have done just that and in such numbers that any community in the nation would find hard to emulate. When the project was first suggested to the Taroona residents in 1986 I am sure that no one would have believed that so many people would enthusiastically contribute and that the result would be as impressive in size and content. The sceptics in the community, who said at the time "Taroona hasn't any history" may well swallow their words.

That a small community such as Taroona is, can come together and with 108 contributors write and have published a book of this scale shows the close-knit and co-operative spirit that has always been present in this area.

*Taroona, 1808-1986, Farmlands to a Garden Suburb* is a progressive kaleidoscope of events and experiences over a long period of time. It's story starts with displaced settlers from Norfolk Island taking up their small grants of virgin forest to carve into farmlands in 1808 and its text traces the development of this area of isolated rural settlement to a beautiful harbourside suburb of Hobart. Modern transport, recreational and schooling facilities today make Taroona an urban centre very much appreciated by all those who are privileged to live there.

With 113 topics and an index of over 2,000 entries, this is the first history of Taroona to be published and it should remain a very valuable reference source for many years to come.

*Peter Mercer,  
Curator of History,  
Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.*

*17 June 1988.*

## Acknowledgments

The writing of this history has been a total community project brought together by the Tarooma Historical Group. Therefore on behalf of all residents of this delightful suburb, the Committee extends grateful thanks to the following for their encouragement and support.

To the Warden of Kingborough Jim Hean, who at the convenor's request, chaired the first public meeting which saw the formation of the Group. Also to another of our North Ward Councillors Reg Gee, who has given much advice and support throughout the project.

To Jim Hillhouse for the design and production of the large information chart which hung in the Village Shopping Centre for the duration of the project.

Anne Doyle, Kathi Eland and Fé Marsland for their support and help as past Committee members.

Alison Green, Curator of Invertebrate Zoology, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, for the identification of the Chiton common along the seashore of Tarooma.

Tarooma Artist Jane Burrell for designing the Chiton Logo used on the Group's letterhead, endpapers and spine of the book.

Tarooma Artist Marianne Gill who painted the watercolour of the Shot Tower used on the cover, and who was also responsible for all the sketches.

To Melissa England for designing the cover.

In the photographic field we are indebted to J.C.S.(Jim) Bowler for undertaking the printing of many of the photographs.

Mr Len Bell for re-photographing the Ex-Servicemen's Club pictures.

Mr Richard Verrall for supplying contact prints.

To the staffs at the Archives Office of Tasmania and the Tasmaniana Library, State Library of Tasmania, also staff within the various sections of the Department of Lands Parks and Wildlife for help to contributors.

To June Finnis, Vina Gee, Gwenda Lord, Jenny Parrott and Ileana Timmins who comprised the typing pool for typing the manuscript.

For assistance to the committee we wish to thank the following, David Chandler, Tony Cook, Chris and Elly Dalton, Pam Eaves, Margaret Escott, Joan Gray, Ray Maiden, Ken Parrott, Robert and Helen Reid.

Geoffrey Fitzgibbon for assistance with the Pre-Order Form.

Wise, Lord and Ferguson, Adams & Bennetto, Chartered Accountants, for acting as the Group's Honorary Auditors.

Finally to all the contributors and to those who supplied pictures and illustrations, for without their combined efforts this book would not have been possible.



## PREFACE

Taroona is situated in the North Ward of the Municipality of Kingborough and lies between the City of Hobart, 9.656064 kilometres and 44 bends to the north and Kingston 6.437376 kilometres and 42 bends to the south, measured from the Village Shopping Centre to the G.P.O. in Hobart and the Kingborough Council Chambers. It has a population of 2,791, (at the 30th June 1986), and whilst it is geographically a dormitory suburb of Hobart to which its people look for employment and shopping, it is for rating purposes part of the Kingborough Municipality to which it elects three councillors and is still gazetted as the township of Taroona.

As the history of this area had never before been documented, Richard Lord and Chris Keen convened a public meeting on Thursday the 31st July 1986 at 7.30 p.m. in the New Community Hall and invited one of our three councillors who is also Warden of the Municipality, Mr G.G. Hean, to chair the meeting.

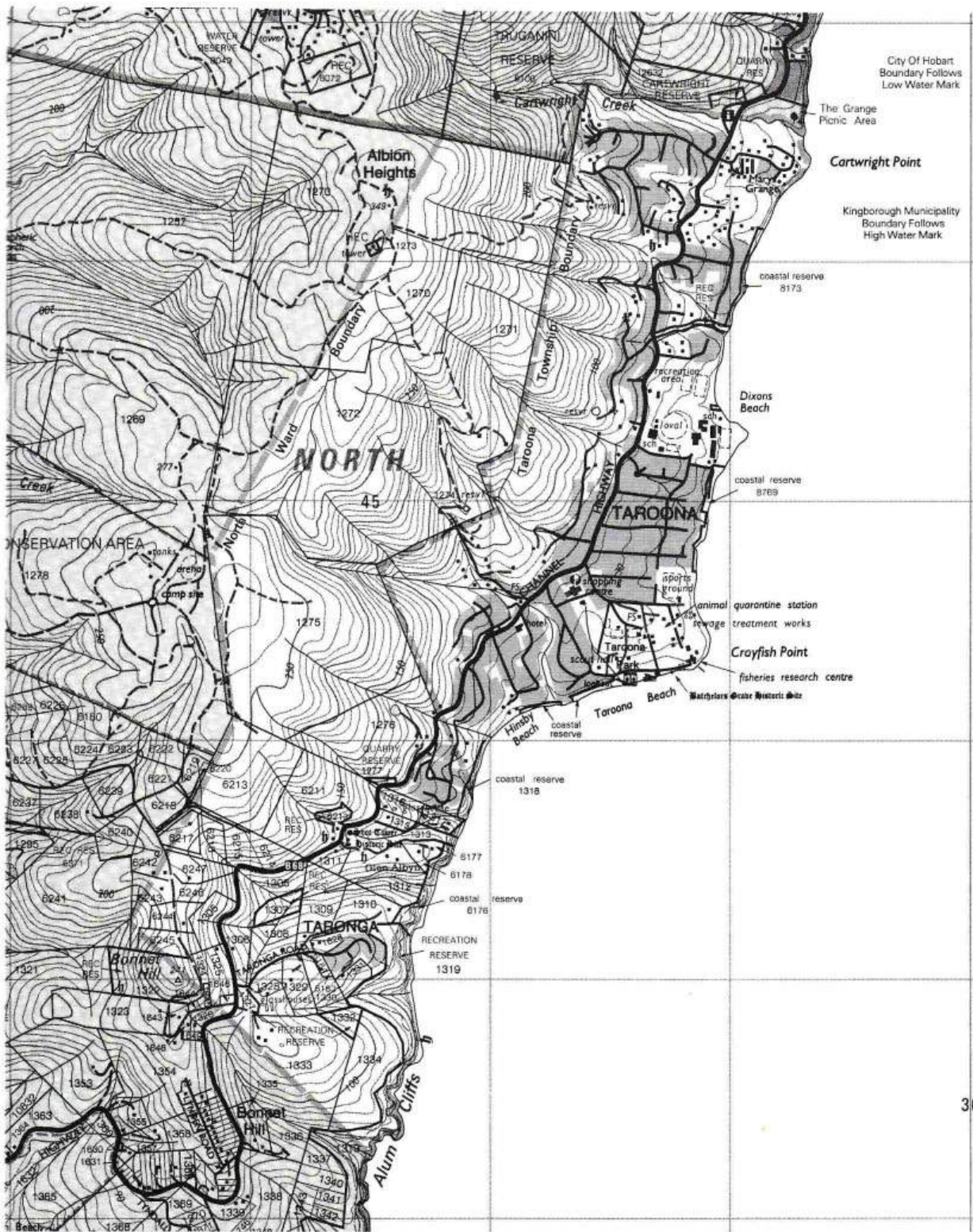
The aim of the meeting was to discuss and if felt appropriate, to form the Taroona Historical Group with the sole object of encouraging and co-ordinating community groups, individuals, families and businesses within the North Ward of Kingborough in the writing of their histories up to the end of 1986, with a view to possible publication in 1988.

At this meeting a committee was elected and it commenced gathering wider community support for the project by holding two guided tours over the Brown's River Probation Station, which lies within the North Ward. Tours over this site have never before been organised.

Some evening meetings also were held to explain the proposed scope of the project, point out guidelines for writing articles and to let contributors meet in a social atmosphere. The response from the community has been one of great enthusiasm, with individuals who have spent much of their lives in the area finding out about historical sites and information of which they were not aware.

The result of all this enthusiasm has brought together 108 contributors who have written 113 articles and gathered together 235 photographs and maps.

Whilst many local histories have over the years been written either by individuals or perhaps a committee of two or three, it is understood that with this publication it is the first time in Tasmania a whole community has been brought together to write about the suburb in which it lives.



Map showing the boundaries of the North Ward of Kingborough and the "Township" of Tarooona.  
 TASMAP, DEPARTMENT OF LANDS PARKS AND WILDLIFE.