

SORELL HERITAGE STUDY

Address: Imlay Street Dunalley 7177		UPI: 2900440	PID: 0
Name: TASMAN MONUMENT			
Feature Type: Monument	Structure Type:	Site Feature Type:	Dating: 1916-1945 1942
	Access Restrictions: Unrestricted		
	Inspection date: October 1996 P Davies		
	Style: N/A		
	Grid ref: 5625 566250 5251700		
Indication of Significance: High probable significance	Theme: Early settlement		
Material: Concrete	Listings:		
Condition: Deteriorated			
Integrity: Intact			
National Estate Criteria:	Photograph Index: 7:23		
Risk: Excavation: ☐ Development: ☐ Maintenance: ☐ Vandalism: ☐			
SITE DESCRIPTION: A clumsily designed monument in concrete (now spalling and requiring maintenance) commemorating the tercentenary of Abel Janszoon Tasman's sighting of Tasmania. His ship's boats commanded by Pilot Major Visscha visited Blackman Bay on 2 December 1642. The monument inscription reads: This monument was erected by the Government of Tasmania in 1942 to commemorate the tercentenary of the discovery of this island in 1642 by Hon. Abel Jans Tasman Ships boats commanded by Pilot Major Visscher visited this bay on December 3rd, 1642 The monument is one of the few commemorating the pre-British history of Tasmania and although not well sited, poorly designed and in poor condition is an important part of the history of the area and its recognition.			
HISTORY: Unveiled on 3 December 1942 by Baron F C van Aersson, the Minister for the Netherlands in Australia to commemorate the sighting of Tasmania by Abel Janszoon Tasman. At the time of its unveiling the monument was reported to be at a location 'near the spot where men from Tasman's ships first set foot in Tasmania', although the actual landing place is unknown. Among the guests were the Governor and his wife Lady Clark as well as the Deputy Premier and other dignitaries. The unveiling was followed by a dinner given at Government House in the evening. The unveiling took the place of a grander celebration initially envisaged by the Tasmanian Government, but curtailed due to the war. The history provided on the monument is inaccurate. It was unveiled on December 3 to coincide with Tasman's landing in Blackman Bay in 1642 (although this was well away from the monument site), although it refers to his 'discovery' of the island. Tasman's expedition first sighted Tasmania on 24 November 1642. Pilot Major Visscher's boats visited Blackman Bay in search of fresh water on December 2, not December 3 as indicated by the inscription.			
BOUNDARY: The listing boundary is formed by Imlay St, the water's edge (including the structures over the water) and the northern access road to the site and is part of the Dunalley Fish Cannery conservation precinct.			

COMMENTS:

The monument is an important symbol linking the Dunalley area to the earliest European sightings of Australia. It also marks a unique international event in Dunalley with the celebration of the 300th anniversary of Tasman's visit bringing the Minister for the Netherlands in Australia as well as Tasmanian dignitaries to the town. It should be included in Schedule 3 of the Sorell Planning Scheme.

BIBLIOGRAPHY + PREVIOUS STUDIES:

Informants: Lex Johnson

The Mercury, 4 December 1942, p2

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