



Tasmania Over Five Generations: Return to Van Diemen's Land?

John Biggs, 40° South Publishing, 2011

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Tasmania's social and political progress as seen through the eyes of five father-son generations, starting with Abraham Biggs who arrived in Hobart Town in 1833. What do the stories of Abraham and his descendants tell us about the Tasmania in which each lived? The author returned to Tasmania after forty years abroad to find in the corridors of power a tapestry of Byzantine complexity, woven with the warp of government and the woof of corporate power. Abraham Biggs might well look from that distant shore, smile, nod and murmur: "*Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.*"

... a narrative, placed in its social and economic context, which beguiles and entraps. Why have we not learnt from the past? Why repeat avarice, stupidity and abuse of position?

Foreword, Justice Pierre Slicer

... Biggs writes without fear or favour. The result is a lively and provocative work that 'knocks the dust off' most conventional local histories. This reviewer enjoyed it immensely. *Sunday Tasmanian*

It is rare to find a book that can offer a detailed, deeply involved history of place... a blend of history, biography and political analysis; a panorama of time and an island. ... an important contribution to Tasmania's literature. *Island Magazine*

John Biggs has avoided the problems that beset so many family historians ... I would be proud to have written a book of this quality and significance. *Descent*

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