



## **'TASSIE COMMUNITIES TALK DEATH'**

### **TASMANIAN HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY FORUM**

#### **PRESENTATION EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Submission closes Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February

#### **1. Presentation title**

Living outside the rectangle - Developing novel ideas for using our community cemeteries

#### **2. What identifiable theme or topic does your proposed presentation relate to?**

The art of conversation

#### **3. What style of presentation would best suit what you want to say?**

Round Table

#### **4. Please provide an overview of your presentation. Approximately 200-300 words (For example, in describing the work you wish to present, please tell us the aims, who participated, what are the key learnings, and what you think is of value to share with others)**

**'Music among the tombstones: Penguin's twilight celebration of the dead'** welcomed the return of the town's ancestors and others in a community celebration held at 7pm on Wednesday 7 January in the [Penguin General Cemetery](#). And it is reasonable to surmise that the style of our celebration of the dead was unique in Tasmania and possibly even across Australia. It certainly garnered a lot of media coverage. 150-200 people joined us in honouring the spirits of bygone times. Commemorating the centenary of the unknown grave, we celebrated the lives of all unknown burials.

This heritage cemetery (1869-1977) with its 1800+ burials boasts the town's most amazing location, with its voices in the wind and stunning moonrise views over Bass Strait. The repository of Penguin's history, the cemetery is arguably among the most researched, published and promoted across Australia, with a galore of information readily available on the internet.

For one-hour we opened this heritage gem to the living and the dead alike. The live non-stop musical event, with highland pipers, flautist, violinist, choir and two vocalists, ended with the magnificent

and moving butterfly release in the small garden dedicated to the 80+ unnamed babies and children, where we saluted the dead and rejoiced in life.

This celebration of life in our defunct cemetery was truly amazing. We invite you to check it out please:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ID\\_FiWht49k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ID_FiWht49k)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penguin\\_General\\_Cemetery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penguin_General_Cemetery)

<https://www.facebook.com/PenguinGeneralCemetery>

The significance of our event is that it altered how people can interpret cemeteries, to the extent that the community now has mooted holding a Long-table dinner, onsite in the cemetery, to raise funds for the cemetery, specifically to upload to the national cemetery index images of all headstones before the unloved ones decay.

Our round table discussion will explore novel ways by which we can use, promote and preserve our community cemeteries.

## 5. Speaker Profile

Individual

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## 6. Do you propose to use any of the following...

No