

# PLEASE SUPPORT US

## A message from Dr Barry Jones, Chairman of the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority's fundraising committee

G'day, I'm Barry Jones and this is Port Arthur.

This place is indisputably one of Australia's truly great treasures, and it has been my honour and very great pleasure to serve as Chairman of the Board of its Management Authority for the past several years.

Why is Port Arthur such a great treasure?

Because it is unique, and because of the extraordinary events that have occurred here.

This is the best preserved convict era site in Australia and has truly international significance.

The story of Port Arthur is the story of one of the greatest forced human migrations the world had ever seen.

Convicts were sent on ships from England to the Australian colonies, about 74,000 of whom were sent to Van Diemens Land - now Tasmania. Convicts who re-offended once in the colonies were sent here.

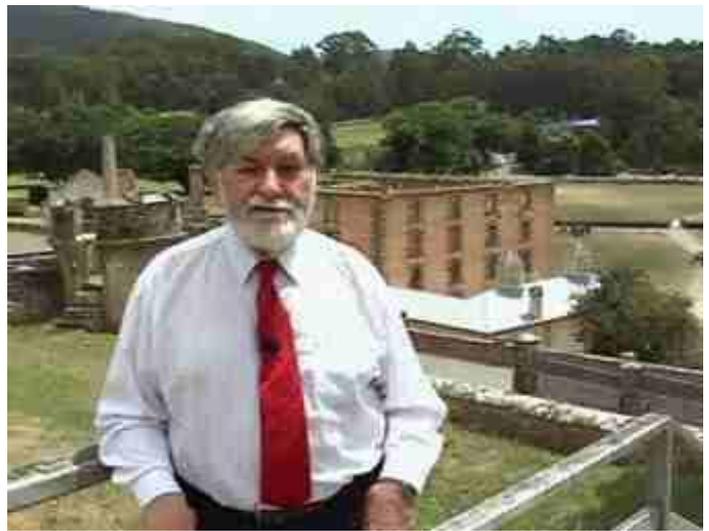
It had a fearsome reputation.

Alongside the dread, however, there was triumph. Industry flourished - timber was sawn, boats were built, coal mined, bread baked and stone quarried to build this settlement and to supply the rapidly growing colony.

Many convicts learned skills that allowed them to become upright citizens in later life.

It's hard to imagine all that now, but visitors to Port Arthur are told the stories of what happened here. This helps them understand the significance of this place, and they tell us what it means to them.

They tell us that Port Arthur is much more than a tourist attraction.



*Hon Dr Barry Jones AO*

They say that Port Arthur becomes, for them, a fundamental part of Australian history and that their visit helps them to better understand Australia and themselves.

They also tell us that they want to bring their children here, and their children's children so they can experience Australia's convict story at first hand.

The Port Arthur Historic Site is also significant to many people as a result of the events of 28 April, 1996. This place has much more personal and often painful associations for the relatives and friends of those who died, as it does for all whose lives were affected forever by the tragedy of that day.

Our organisation - the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority - exists to conserve the historic fabric of the site and to tell the stories of what has happened here, throughout its history, so that future generations can visit and may discover its stories and meanings for themselves.

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To help us do this, the Tasmanian Government provides generous annual funding for our conservation work, and a portion of every dollar spent here by visitors also goes towards its upkeep.

But we need more help, so we've set up the Port Arthur Conservation Fund.

Members of the public – just like you – can make donations to help us in our work, and know that the funds will be put to good use. Donations of two dollars or more are tax deductible, and every dollar helps us in our work.

I ask you now, if you are able to spare even a few dollars, to make a contribution to the Port Arthur Conservation Fund and help us to ensure that this place is still here, telling its stories when your great great grandchildren are ready to visit.

The address and details will be on the screen shortly, so please consider making a contribution to assist in the conservation of this national treasure.

It will truly be an investment in the future.

Thank you.

## CONTACT DETAILS FOR DONATIONS

Please support the Port Arthur Historic Site Conservation Fund

c/- Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority  
Arthur Highway

Port Arthur TASMANIA 7182 Australia

PHONE +61 (0)3 6251 2300

[www.portarthur.org.au](http://www.portarthur.org.au)