A study of Elections and Political Issues in Tasmania from 1856, when Self Government came into effect, to 1871.

by

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Note on Sources and Method

A study of elections in this period limits the writer almost exclusively to newspapers for his source material. There is no alternative way of gathering information. The influence of the Press upon politics has been assessed variously, but especially in the period under review was it important, for the Press was the only means that many settlers had of learning of Parliamentary business.

Because of the number of newspapers that was published in Tasmania, it has not been found necessary to trust to any single paper's account of the news. Except for a short period there was always one paper in Hobart Town which was radical in character and opposed to The Mercury, the chief newspaper of the South by 1860.

In addition, the student's task in evaluating the political happenings and elections is made easier by the amazingly comprehensive account of elections and proceedings of the Legislature. In many cases, candidates' policy speeches were reported verbatim, as were speeches from the floor of the House of Assembly.

Why did the newspapers of the day deal so exhaustively with Colonial politics. This question could give rise to much interesting speculation, but the question is not one of why reporting was so complete a hundred years ago, but rather why
present day political reporting is so inadequate. That, however, is a subject outside the scope of this analysis. But doubtless the fact that a number of newspaper proprietors were Members of Parliament meant that Parliamentary proceedings would receive a great deal of attention.

The method adopted in studying the political issues and elections of the day has been to read the often conflicting accounts of elections and deliberations of Parliament, and attempt to determine from them the truth, taking into account the unconcealed bias of the papers. The extraordinarily lengthy Editorials furnish more than ample material for estimating the characterisation of the newspapers and the extent of influence on the public.

The policy of Parliamentary candidates has been assessed from their policy addresses published in the newspapers, accounts of electioneering meetings, letters to the Press and from often outspoken Editorial comment on both measures and men.

Too little study of "ballot behaviour", as it has come to be called, has been made in Australia. It is to be trusted that this work will demonstrate the value of election analysis, from the social, as well as the political and historical points of view.
Note: It has been impossible to determine the exact position of some of the electoral boundaries.
## Rolling Places in Electorates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Place Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hobart Town</td>
<td>New Market Place&lt;br&gt;old Market Place&lt;br&gt;st George's Hill, near the Church&lt;br&gt;Great Street, near Antill Street&lt;br&gt;Harrington Street, near Warwick Street&lt;br&gt;Goulburn Street, near St John's Church&lt;br&gt;Argyle Street, near Warwick Street&lt;br&gt;Surry Street, near Liverpool Street.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queenborough</td>
<td>Kingson&lt;br&gt;Sandy Bay, near the second milestone&lt;br&gt;Cascades Road, near the reservoir.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenorchy</td>
<td>Glenorchy, near the seventh milestone&lt;br&gt;The race-course at New Town&lt;br&gt;Colville Street, near the New Town Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingborough</td>
<td>Kingston&lt;br&gt;Oyster Cove&lt;br&gt;Kelly's Point, North Bruny&lt;br&gt;Three Hut Point&lt;br&gt;Levett, Port Cygnet&lt;br&gt;Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>Franklin&lt;br&gt;Dover, Port Esperance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Norfolk</td>
<td>Court House, New Norfolk&lt;br&gt;Styx Bridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>Bethwell&lt;br&gt;Hamilton&lt;br&gt;Ouse Bridge&lt;br&gt;Woolpack Inn, Macquarie Plains.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oatlands</td>
<td>Oatlands&lt;br&gt;Jericho&lt;br&gt;Antill Ponds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brighton</td>
<td>Kempton&lt;br&gt;Pontville.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>Richmond.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarence</td>
<td>Mallorive&lt;br&gt;Kokeby.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Polling Places in Electorates (cont.)

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- Bluckland
- Triaundra.

**Glamorgan**
- Swansea
- The struggle for self-government in Tasmania.
- Glen Ogle.

**Campbell Town**
- Campbell Town
- Ross
- Clarence, & Cleveland.

**Fingal**
- Avoca
- Cullenswood
- Falmouth.

**Hobart**
- Government House
- The Market Place
- St George's Square
- The Court House.

**Westbury**
- Westbury.

**Dorlarina**
- Deloraine.

**Devon**
- Torquay
- Burnie, Emu Bay
- Stanley.

**Note**
- The names of the Electorates given above are the names in which the Electorates are returned to.

**Addendum**
- The following is a list of the names of places where polling stations are held:
  - Longford.
  - Cressy, near the bridge.
  - Over Brumby's Rivalat.
  - Campbell Town.
  - George Town.
  - St John's Square.
  - The Market Place.
  - St George's Square.
  - The Court House.