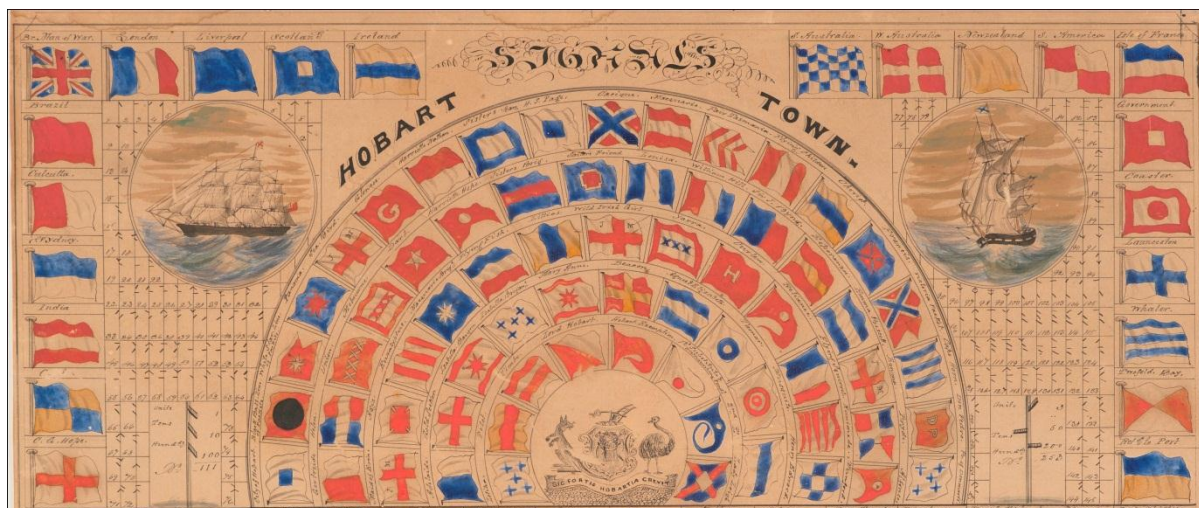

Maritime Museum of Tasmania Lunch Time Talk August 2011



Detail from R1147, reproduced courtesy of the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery

**Signal and Merchant Ship Flag Charts of Private Edward Murphy
Presented by Mark Risby**

Eight little known pictures held by museums in Hobart are some of the most significant historical maritime art works of Tasmania. These illustrations of signals and merchant ship flags of Van Diemen's Land were drawn in the 1840's and 1850's by a convict guard of the 99th (Lanarkshire Volunteers) Regiment of Foot, Private Edward Murphy.

These historic flag charts occupy such a unique and important place in our maritime history because they are the only existing pictorial reference to the merchant ship house flags of Van Diemen's Land. No other almanac, reference book or port manual depicts these house flags. Murphy also decorated his charts with lively sketches of Hobart vessels and crews of the 1840s and 1850s, and often included the codes for the optical semaphore at Battery Point and Mt Nelson for messages such as 'The escaped prisoners are here'. The charts provide a first-hand glimpse of life and business in the Port of Hobart during the turbulent 1840s and 50s.

Bring your lunch and come along for this colourful, illustrated talk.

Time: 12.00-1.00pm

Date: Tuesday 2 August

Place: The Royal Society Room, Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery

Elizabeth Adkins, Maritime Heritage Coordinator

Ph.: 0448 448 754 Email: elizabeth.adkins@tmag.tas.gov.au