

[£50pa] be not promptly paid it would be a better course to have the eyesore removed'.⁴²² No subsequent record for the railway appears in the minutes and its exact location is unknown.

10.6 Electronic Communication

Telegraphic communication was one of the most profound innovations of the nineteenth century and first reached Tasmania in 1857. In 1894 a request to take a telegraph line over the Domain, rather than following the railway line, was rejected.⁴²³

Following Marconi's invention of wireless telegraphy, the Commonwealth passed the Wireless Telegraph Act in 1905, securing control of all wireless communication.⁴²⁴ Hobart gained Australia's second government owned coastal radio station when a station opened on the summit of Domain Hill in 1912.⁴²⁵ The equipment had been brought to Hobart by Douglas Mawson's expedition to Antarctica in November 1911, with a view to establishing a station enabling the expedition to communicate with Australia via Macquarie Island.⁴²⁶ While this was considered to be quite extraordinary in 1911, Mawson's wireless operator foresaw no difficulty in maintaining regular contact. In December, the Federal Government ordered the construction of the radio station by the Maritime Wireless Telegraph Company, which was owned by the colourful wireless pioneer, Father Archibald Shaw.⁴²⁷ The station, which opened for business under the Postmaster General's Department on 1 May 1912, was housed in a small weatherboard building situated adjacent to a mast 184 feet 9 inches high and weighing 16 tons (figure 58).⁴²⁸ The station became part of a nationwide network maintained for maritime safety and naval defence communications. It was operated under license by Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd (AWA) from 1922 until 1946 when the Overseas Telecommunications Act handed control back to the Commonwealth.⁴²⁹ The original building was refurbished internally in 1973 although its 24 hour service involved night time monitoring from Melbourne.⁴³⁰

10.7 Tourism

Alongside its role as recreational space the Domain has long been a tourist attraction. As a large area of parkland close to the city centre it slotted nicely into the colony's self-promotion as the 'Sanatorium of the South', a place of health, salubrity and moral virtue.⁴³¹ 'Viator' (or 'Traveller') extolled its beauties in 1844 in lyric prose inviting visitors.⁴³² Later nineteenth tourist literature described its attractions while in 1892 the Queen's Domain Committee were quick to link improvements to the water supply with the Domain to create 'the standard sanitorium, not only for Australasia generally, but also for an annual crowd of visitors from our vast Indian Empire'.⁴³³ In 1893 the Secretary of the Tasmanian Improvement and Tourist Association requested the erection of a 'shelter arbour' on the summit of Domain Hill.⁴³⁴ The 'arbour' was

⁴²²Minutes of the Queen's Domain Committee, 22 November 1889 — CB16/1.

⁴²³Minutes of the Queen's Domain Committee May 1894 — CB16/1.

⁴²⁴Durrant, p. 18.

⁴²⁵ibid, p.21.

⁴²⁶*Mercury*, 24 November 1911, p. 6.

⁴²⁷*Mercury*, 23 December 1911, p. 6 and 4 January 1912, p. 4.

⁴²⁸*Mercury*, 1 May 1912, p. 4; *Weekly Courier*, 25 March 1912, p. 19.

⁴²⁹Durrant, pp. 33, 168.

⁴³⁰ibid, p. 202.

⁴³¹see Petrow, 1994.

⁴³²*ColonialTimes*, 9 November 1844, p. 3.

⁴³³1892 Annual Report of the Queen's Domain Committee, JPPP 28 (1892), no. 34.

⁴³⁴Minutes of the Queen's Domain Committee, 14 November 1893 — CB16/1.