

DOORS WIDE OPEN

PEOPLE often wonder about what goes on behind closed doors. The Rotary Club of Launceston, Tas, came up with a way to satisfy their community's curiosity through their Doors Open Day, which opened 18 of some of Launceston's most interesting buildings, usually cordoned off from public view.

The assortment of buildings included the City of Launceston Crematorium, the Magistrates Court, Macquarie House, Launceston Town Hall, Launceston City Band Rooms, the Tibetan Buddhist Institute, Masonic Centre, City Park Radio and North Esk Rowing Club.

The event unveiled some of Launceston's rich heritage, as well as provided insight into activities usually performed out of public view. Rotarian and cardiologist Don McTaggart demonstrated state-of-the-art heart disease diagnostic techniques like echocardiology at his clinic. The tour of the crematorium provided the opportunity to dispel myths surrounding the practice.

For some, it was also a chance to relive old memories. One visitor to Glasgow Engineering, in operation for a record 125 years, proudly disclosed to fourth-generation owner John Hutton he had worked in the company as a young man.

Public engagement was strong, with many tours booked out in advance. Profits from ticket sales will be directed towards Rotary projects. The event was an unusual fundraising idea taking advantage of Launceston's pre-existing curiosities. •



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Rotarian John Dent, left, explains about Macquarie House, built in 1830, to two Doors Open Day patrons; Launceston Town Hall opened its doors for the day; Doors Open Day organisers Rosanna Coombes, left, and Sonia Smith, second from right, with fellow Rotary Club of Launceston volunteers Madeline Logan, Toni Hibbs and Diane Fowler put their best foot forward for Doors Open Day 2017; John Hutton, right, the fourth-generation owner of Glasgow Engineering, talking to a tour group about his company.