

Biography Workshop

Dr Alison Alexander

Jane Franklin: writing the biography of a tough woman and feminist icon whose diaries inspire dismay

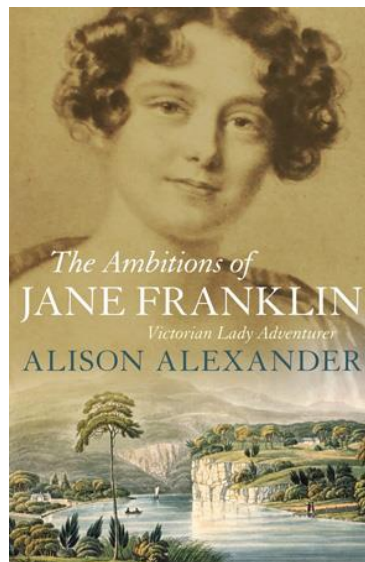
Date: Thursday 28 May 2015

Venue: Seminar Room A, Coombs Building

Time: 12 midday to 2.00 p.m.

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Jane Franklin was the wife of Sir John Franklin, lieutenant-governor of Van Diemen's Land from 1837 to 1843. She was active in many areas, a fascinating woman well worth a biography. Writing about this woman, author of 8 million words in diaries and letters, was a tough job physically and mentally, though enjoyable and endlessly stimulating. Clever, tough and devious, Jane Franklin presented herself to the world as the perfect lady, to a later generation as a feminist icon, and to the biographer reading her diaries as a self-centred tyrant.



Alison Alexander was born and educated in Tasmania, with a PhD in History from the University of Tasmania. She made a career writing commissioned histories of 24 Tasmanian industries, areas, schools and so on, ranging from the historic area of the Southern Midlands to a football club. She has also written a number of biographies, her book *The Ambitions of Jane Franklin: Victorian lady adventurer* (Allen & Unwin 2013) winning the National Biography Award in 2014.

