

NEW RELEASE NEW RELEASE NEW RELEASE NEW RELEASE

SOLOMON'S NOOSE

The True Story of Her Majesty's Hangman of Hobart Town

STEVE HARRIS

The story of a young convict, Solomon Blay, who became Her Majesty's hangman in Van Diemen's Land; the man who personally had to deliver an Empire's judgment on 200 men and women, and endured his own noose of personal demons and demonisation in order to "survive"; all in the context of the great struggles of good-evil, life-death, hope-despair, which drew the attention of Darwin, Twain, Trollope and Dickens as Van Diemans Land evolved from a Hades of Evil to sow the seeds of nationhood.

The book paints a vivid picture of the society and poverty from which Blay's character was forged in England and the desperate, brutal nature of being a convict in Van Diemen's Land.

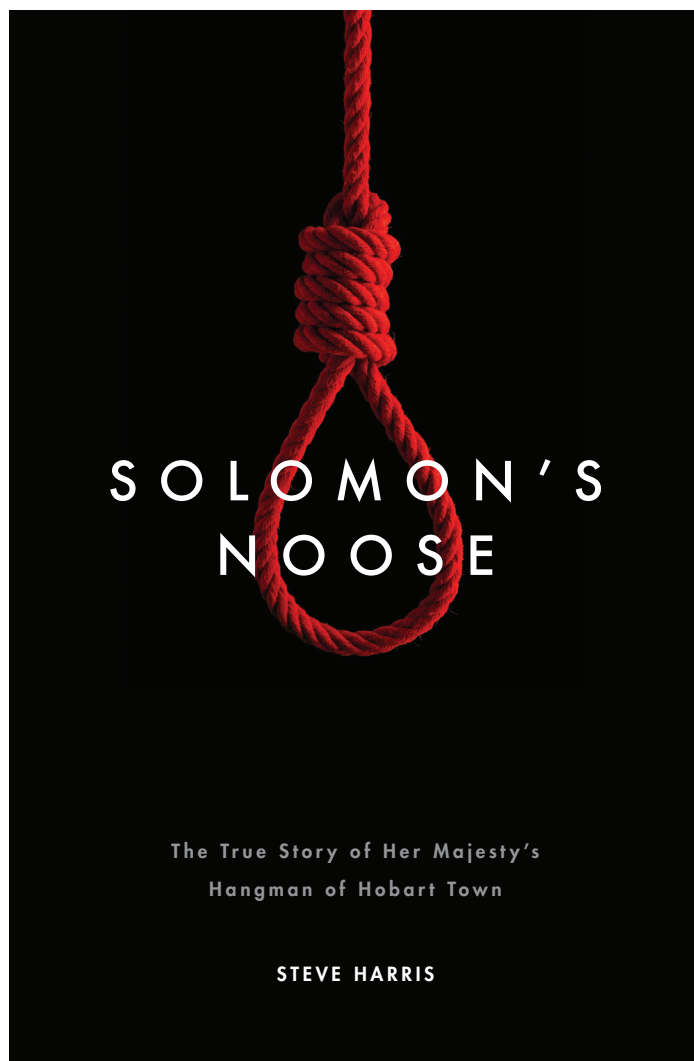
Solomon's noose is an important book in exposing the dark 'underbelly' in the formation of modern Australia.

From the furthest corner of that foreign country, the past, comes the haunting story of the convict who became the British Empire's youngest executioner. Beware the shock of the true.

— Andrew Rule, award-winning journalist and author

Impressive research and a story that challenges the imagination — except that it's true. A prisoner elects to become a hangman — to improve his lot in life. All this set against the Gothic world of Van Diemen's Land in the time of convicts, bushrangers and rough justice.

— Les Carlyon, best-selling author of *Gallipoli* and *The Great War*



The Author

Steve Harris, a Tasmanian, has 30 years experience in journalism, print and online publishing, and high-performance organisations. He is the only person to have been editorial head of both of Melbourne's major media groups: Editor-in-Chief of the *Herald and Weekly Times Group* and Editor-in-Chief of *The Age*.

Published by **Melbourne Books**
www.melbournebooks.com.au
Paperback 154x235mm 336 pages
plus 8 page colour photo section

RRP: \$29.95 ISBN: 978-1-922129-74-1
Release: September 2015
For all queries: info@melbournebooks.com.au
Tel: 03 9662 2051