



# Launceston Historical Society Inc

**Newsletter No 64**

**February 2001**

## FEBRUARY

**Sunday 18th February:** 2.30 pm at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery theatrette

**Gill Morris**, a member of the Launceston Historical Society, will be speaking on '**Launceston Literary Ladies**'. Women writers have contributed much to an understanding of the cultural and social history of nineteenth century Tasmania. Their works have created a store of material that is often neglected. Whatever genre these Launceston ladies chose - poetry, letters, journals or novels - the quality of their writing is not challenged. Its literary merit is subservient to its contribution to our knowledge of the life and time of the writer. Some of the ladies in Gill's talk only lived in Launceston for a short time, some wrote while living here, others at other times and in and about other places.

Gill read Honours History in Wales. She has taught science, maths and geography, but never history and has also worked in university and school libraries. She is a member of the Society.

**Monday 19th February:** Dr Ian Duffield '**Beyond the Atlantic shores: The Common People in history - Beast or Hero?**' at the QVM Theatrette at 5.30 pm (see enclosed flier).

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## MARCH

### 13th Examiner John West Memorial Lecture

**Friday 2nd March**, 8.00 pm in the Lecture Theatre, **Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre**, University of Tasmania, Launceston Campus

Speaker: **Professor Geoffrey Blainey**

Subject: '**How Six Became One: the Strange Story of the Creation of Australia's Commonwealth**'

**Professor Blainey's** lecture will examine the rise of the federal movement in the 1880s and 1890s; the obstacles to the creation of the federation; the role of Tasmania in the achievement; and the wide variations in public support across Australia (Sydney and Brisbane and Perth were highly suspicious- Launceston was enthusiastic). The lecture will also enquire what the Commonwealth achieved in its first 100 years.

Supper will be served at the conclusion of the lecture.

**Saturday 10th - Monday 12 March: "Coming of Age"** Conference, celebrating the 21st anniversary of the Genealogical Society of Tasmania Inc, to be held at the Tram Shed 29 Inveresk Rail Yards, Launceston. The GST has organised a three-day programme of lectures, tours and workshops. Speakers include Professor Richard Davis "Irish Convicts", Fay Gardam OAM "Writing up Local History and Disposal of Off-shoots", Hamish Maxwell Stewart "Convict Stations on the Midlands Highway", Associate Professor Dr David Mackey "Genes and Genealogy", Jenny Mayne "Richard Dry: From Liberties to Launceston".

People may register for the three days, a day or a single session. For further details of costs and programme contact the Secretary of the Genealogical Society of Tasmania Inc, phone 6344 4034.

**Sunday, 25th March** 2.30 pm at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery theatre

**Jillian Koshin**, who joined the Launceston Historical Society very soon after its formation, will be speaking on '**The Life of Eric Reece**'

Jillian is currently studying for a PhD as an external student at the School of Australian and International Studies at the Deakin University in Victoria. Her thesis is on Eric Reece (a former premier of Tasmania) and the idea of development in Tasmania.

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## APRIL

**Saturday, 28th April**, at St John's Church Parish Centre, St John Street, Launceston.  
Annual Symposium on '**Federation**' and **Annual General Meeting**.

The registration fee for the Symposium is \$12.00 and this includes luncheon and morning and afternoon teas. A registration form will be included in the next newsletter and should be returned to the Secretary by the 20th April 2000.

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### News of Members

It was pleasing to read that Professor Michael Roe has been elected a Fellow of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies. Professor Roe is one of the first to receive this high honour, which has been awarded in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the community history movement.

Included on the recent Australia Day Honours list, was Dr John Morris who was appointed an Officer (AO) of the Order of Australia. This is the second highest honour in the awards and Dr

Morris' award was for service to medicine and the community through educational, medical research and social welfare organizations.

On behalf of all members of the Society, I would like to congratulate Professor Roe and Dr Morris, (both members of the Society), on receiving their honours.

Mr John Taylor, another member of the Society, has been appointed to the Tasmanian Working Party for the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* following the death last year of Sir Raymond Ferrall.

Congratulations also to Mrs Patricia Ratcliffe on the recent publication of her book *John West's Union of the Colonies: Essays on Federation*.

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### Web page

The Society now has its own web page at [www.elaunceston.com/launcestonhistory](http://www.elaunceston.com/launcestonhistory). It contains information about the Society, the programme of coming events, a list of the Society's publications available for sale, details of the *Examiner* - John West memorial lecture, the current newsletter, and links to other web sites.

We are grateful to Henry Bartlett for constructing the site and the eLaunceston Community Portal for hosting our site free of charge.

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### New Members

The President and Executive would like to welcome the following as new members of the Society.

Denis and Robyn Lake

Mrs Catherine Pearce

Mrs M Black

Mark Gunn

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### Seniors Online Project

Seniors Online Project, Telstra Research - is a project conducted by Telstra Research as part of the eLaunceston Research Project. The Seniors Online project is a one-year longitudinal study beginning in March 2001 that focuses on how and why seniors use the Internet and how this changes over time. In order to better understand seniors use of the Internet, the project will involve a number of research activities which may include: questionnaires, face-to-face interviews, group discussions and diaries. If you are 55 years or over and are a new Internet user, an existing Internet user, or are not interested in using the Internet at all, Telstra Research would like to invite you to be part of the project.

If you would like to participate or would like more information please contact Cherry Grimwade via e-mail: [Cherry.Grimwade@team.telstra.com](mailto:Cherry.Grimwade@team.telstra.com) or call FREECALL 1800 649 296\* (Calls from mobile phones are charged at applicable rates).

If you know of anyone who maybe interested in participating, we welcome their participation in the project.

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**Advance      Notice**

**Saturday, 28th April:** Annual Symposium and AGM. The theme is **'Federation'**

**Sunday, 20th May:** Marian Walker - **'The Pioneer Avenue between Launceston and Hobart'**

**Sunday 17th June:** Professor Henry Reynolds - Topic still to be advised

**Sunday 15th July:** Jill Cassidy - **'John Walker, Roderic O'Connor and the first Cataract Mill'**

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**Membership      Renewals**

A reminder that membership subscriptions are now due. For those that have not already renewed their membership, payments may be made in person to the Treasurer, John Morris at monthly meetings or mailed to PO Box 1296, Launceston, Tasmania 7250. Please use the form below when making your payment.

<b>RENEWAL OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION</b>			
(due 31st January 2001)			
<b>PLEASE PRINT</b>			
Name			
Address			
Single:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00	Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00
Pensioner	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00	Pensioner family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00
Student (full-time)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00	Corporate	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40.00    \$ _____
_____ copies of 2001 Papers and Proceedings @ \$10.00 (including \$ postage)			\$ _____
Total (enclosed)			\$ _____
Send to: The Treasurer, PO Box 1296 Launceston, Tasmania 7250			