



# Launceston Historical Society Inc.

## Newsletter No 104

October 2007

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

*"Bringing together people with an interest in history"*

### From the Editor's Desk

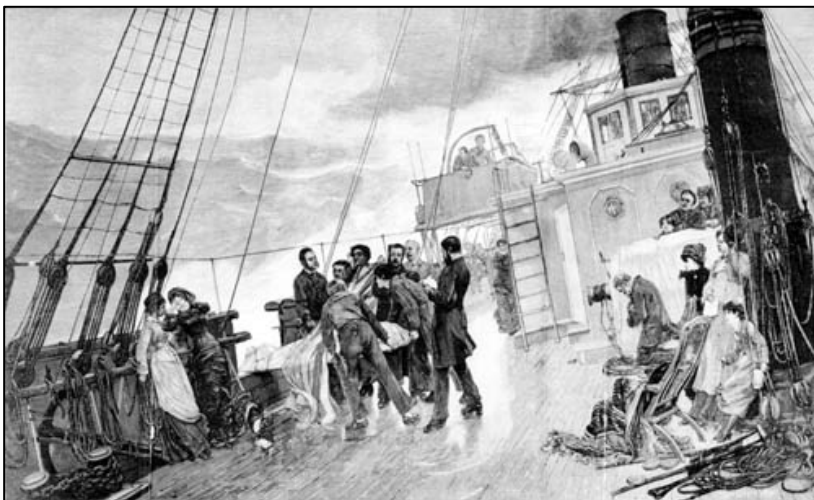
#### Dr Pugh v Dr Haygarth

At the LHS meeting on 19 August Dr John Paull gave an entertaining account of the case of the young and newly-arrived Dr Haygarth who accused the respected Dr Pugh of manslaughter, back in the early days of Launceston. The city was agog with the accusations during 1842 and 1843, which saw Dr Haygarth end up in prison and Dr Pugh eventually go on to become the first person in the southern hemisphere, in June 1847, to administer an anaesthetic during an operation.

John is pictured here with his wife Denise.



#### Burials at sea



'A Burial at Sea', *Australasian Sketcher*, November 1880.  
Source: La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria

Thomas Gunn's fascinating illustrated talk on burials at sea was held on 23 September. Some members might have heard Tom being interviewed by Chris Wisbey that morning on the ABC. Tom is hoping to find a map depicting sea burial sites in Tasmania. He recalls seeing one marking such an area off Wrest Point, Hobart. He is also seeking information about Jane Littler, who was buried at sea off Low Head in 1988.

## LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President	Marita Bardenhagen	6334 4490
Vice-President	Jenny Gill	6331 1150
Minute Secretary	Ross Smith	
Correspondence Secretary	Jai Paterson	0417 915 462
Treasurer	Carol Fuller	6331 1558

All correspondence should be sent to: PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Society Website: [www.elaunceston.com/launcestonhistory](http://www.elaunceston.com/launcestonhistory) (A copy of this newsletter can be found on this site)

## October Activities

**Sunday 14 October 2007 8.30am – 5.00pm**

**Excursion to the Moorina Power Station and Cemetery** with lunch and mine tunnel walk at Derby, then home via the Branxholm Race Walk and detour to the carved trees at Legerwood. A separate invitation has been sent to members.

**Friday 19 October 10.30am – 11.30 am** at Hobler's Bridge Road

**The unveiling of the North Esk historical interpretation panels** by The Hon Don Wing MLC and the presentation of the panels to the City of Launceston by the Society followed by morning tea at the Northern Tasmanian Netball Centre. A separate invitation has been sent to members.

**Sunday 21 October – 2.30 pm** at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

### **Michael Roe: The Wreck of *George The Third***

*George The Third*, a transport ship carrying 220 male convicts, was wrecked in D'Entrecasteaux Channel on 12 April 1835. There resulted 133 deaths, all but six were convicts, and at least two of the latter were shot by guards in order to keep them and their fellows below decks after the strike. This killing was a central issue in the ever-continuing controversy surrounding the wreck. Michael Roe suggests that George Arthur feared that anger about the convict deaths following the wreck might inflame rebelliousness among his subjects. While concentrating on this 'political' side of the story, the lecture will also touch upon broader issues of convict management, and say something of the *George The Third* convicts throughout their known lives.

Michael Roe grew up in Melbourne. After study in that city, Cambridge, and Canberra he joined the History Department at the University of Tasmania in 1960. In retirement he has concentrated on Tasmanian studies, his most recent book telling the story of *George The Third*. Copies of *An Imperial Disaster* will be available for sale at the lecture, at the publisher's special price of \$40.

## November Talk

**Sunday 18 November – 2.30 pm** at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

### **Eric Ratcliff: Back Street Architecture in Launceston**

The individualism of Australian towns and suburbs, in contrast with the unified estate developments in Britain, can be traced to a proclamation made by Governor Macquarie in 1811. This, combined with the development of local style, based on tradition, fashion, and necessity, led to a vernacular tradition that remained influential for a

hundred and fifty years. The development of this in Tasmania, and particular in Launceston, is traced, with special reference to some local peculiarities.

Eric Ratcliff, in his day-job, is a consultant psychiatrist, but out of hours, an architectural historian, currently working on a history of building and architecture throughout Van Diemen's Land and Tasmania during the extended nineteenth century. His interest is in why buildings look as they do, as a result of social needs and aesthetic fashion, and his bias is towards relating local developments to influences from the wider world.

## Advance Notice of Talks

### 14 March 2008 – *The Examiner* -John West Memorial Lecture

Phillip Adams AO FRSA has been invited to present next year's lecture. Phillip Adams is a well-known and sometimes controversial social commentator, columnist, broadcaster, author, speaker and filmmaker. Currently he is the host of Radio National's Late Night Live programme.

He has received numerous awards including two Orders of Australia, Australian Humanist of the Year (1987) and Republican of the Year 2005. In 1998, the National Trust elected him as one of Australia's 100 Living National Treasures.

Like West he is a fierce critic of what he perceives to be the social evils of his time and he takes every opportunity to propose remedies. John West made effective use of the only mass medium of his time. Phillip Adams employs the wide range of today's mass media.

## WAY BACK WHEN ... People Places and Events

The organising committee is seeking members to contribute stories about early pioneers or events in their family or district of Northern Tasmania. All articles should be between 500 and 600 words in length.

For further information and details on submitting articles, please contact Anne Bartlett, chairman of co-ordinating committee, (phone 6344 5258) or John Dent (6331 8317).

- Peter Cox: Towns bear traces of Chinese miners – *The Examiner*, 4 August 2007, p. 29
- Catherine Pearce: *Venus* abductions led to slaughter – *The Examiner*, 11 August 2007, p. 35
- Gill Morris: Low Head rich in marine life – *The Examiner*, 18 August 2007, p.31
- Lesley McCoull: Colourful character led a full life – *The Examiner*, 25 August 2007, p. 35
- Gill Morris: Fight for township's fresh water – *The Examiner*, 1 September 2007, p. 40
- John Dent: Enterprising man with love of land – *The Examiner*, 8 September 2007, p. 45
- Peter Cox: Start of farming boom in the North – *The Examiner*, 15 September 2007, p. 45
- Marion Sargent: Reliable service to Furneaux islands – *The Examiner*, 22 Sep 2007, p. 37
- Marion Sargent: *Clytie's* 1902 voyage was to be its last – *The Examiner*, 29 Sep 2007, p. 43
- Lorraine Wootton: Early exploration of North-East landscape – *The Examiner*, 6 Oct 2007

## Recent Publications by Members

**Eric Ratcliff**, Two articles **Here I raise my Ebenezer: Two transient architects in Van Diemen's Land and Tasmania** and **An heraldic hen** in THRA P&P, Vol 54, no 2, August 2007.

**Launceston Family Album.** Governor William Cox recently launched the limited edition archival quality book featuring 98 stories of people who held season tickets for the Tasmanian International Exhibition in 1891-92. The following LHS members have contributed stories: Jenny Gill, Alison Green, Gus Green, Nic Haygarth, Prue McCausland, Alma McKay, Gill Morris, Catherine Pearce, Angela Prosser-Green, Paul Richards, Marion Sargent, Barbara Valentine and Gwenda Webb. Copies are available to read at the Launceston Library, Community History Branch of the QVM, Tasmanian Family History Society (Launceston) and Tasmaniana Library. This is a continuing project, and information about the 1183 portraits is still being sought. All the portraits and biographical information can be accessed on the website [www.launcestonfamilyalbum.org.au](http://www.launcestonfamilyalbum.org.au).

## Members' Column



### **John Dent**

I grew up on the family farm at Oaks and developed an early interest in family history. I attended University in Hobart and graduated with a surveying degree and after becoming registered as a surveyor became a partner in the Launceston surveying firm of Campbell Smith Phelps Pedley and a partner in Peacock, Darcey and Anderson after the 2000 merger of the two firms. I currently manage the Launceston office.

I am married with two children and live in Launceston. I am a member of the Rotary Club of Launceston, a director of the St. Giles Society and President of the Rural Youth Advisory

Committee. As a member of Rural Youth I was involved with the establishment of the Agfest field days in 1982.

In the early 1980's I researched the families of my great grandparents and researched the previous owners of the family farms of the Oaks district. Some of this work was published in "The Blink of an Eye" by the Meander Valley Council.

I was a founding member of the Tasmanian Family History Society (Launceston) and of the Launceston Historical Society and also the founding Vice President of the West Tamar Historical Society in 2000. My interest in this area was as a result of my ggggg grandfather James Hortle living and dying at York Town. A lack of information, conflicting stories and a desire to see what remained of York Town led me to explore the site with other members of the West Tamar Historical Society. My surveying skills certainly came to the fore by being able to reconstruct 1807 survey notes to locate remains of some of the buildings. The West Tamar Historical Society members have gone on to locate over 50 sites of the 1804-1809 settlement and to ensure parts of the site are put in public ownership and are open for the everyone to visit.

I am currently writing seven chapters for the York Town book to be published by the West Tamar Historical Society in early 2008. I am currently President of the West Tamar Historical Society.

My active involvement with the LHS has been to speak at two recent symposia, be part of the editorial team for "Way Back When" and have written a few articles as well. I was part of the LHS team that prepared the North Esk Interpretation panels. My current historical interests are York Town, Early Launceston, Surveying and Surveyors, and early land grants in the Launceston area.



### **Marion Sargent, LHS Newsletter Editor**

Born in Wynyard and raised in Devonport, Marion also has lived in Hobart, Burnie, Smithton, England and since 1991 in Launceston. After starting a teaching degree, spending six years as a clerk with Telecom, and working overseas as a nanny, Marion eventually returned to study. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in History and Geography from TSIT, and a Graduate Diploma in Librarianship from the University of Tasmania.

Marion's 15 years in the Local Studies section of the Launceston Library fostered her interest in local and family history. She has had articles published in *Tasmanian Ancestry*, *On the Tide*, *Launceston Family Album* and *Way Back When*. She has been appointed as a judge, along with Jai Paterson, of the TFHS Lilian

Watson Family History Award. Taking on the role of editor of the Historical Society Newsletter is another challenge which she hopes will raise awareness of our region's history.

## Vale John Taylor

It is with sadness that we mark the death of a foundation member, John Albert Taylor, who passed away on 26 August 2007. John, together with Campbell MacKnight, was responsible for drafting the Launceston Historical Society's current Constitution.

John Taylor was Minute Secretary from 1998 to 2001. He volunteered to be Minutes Secretary again in 2004 after the previous incumbent resigned due to ill-health. John filled this position until his own declining health caused him to resign.

John organised the Society's display at the Westbury History Faire one year and wrote the booklet *Let's Talk about Place Names*, for the Society to sell. He donated a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of some of his other books to the Society and over the years gave a number of talks to members.

## New Members

The President and Executive would like to welcome the following as members of the Society: Prue McCausland, Margaret Noel-Perkins and Annabel Tyson.

## Fuller Papers

**Barbara Valentine** has compiled the following information about people mentioned in George Fuller's *Recollections of Launceston 1836-1845*. More information is being sought about these people and others who were living in Launceston at the time. Please contact Anne Bartlett if you can help.



Launceston Synagogue, St John Street.  
Source: Local Studies Collection,  
Launceston Library

### Richard Lambeth (Mr Lambert): Synagogue architect

Richard Lambeth, a Cornish glassworker and architect, arrived in Launceston in 1838. (In some records his name is spelt Lambert.) In September 1838 he advertised his services as an art teacher; at the time he was living in Charles Street.

Henry, son of Richard, a builder, and Maria Lambert, was born on 19 March 1839 in Launceston. Another son, John Page, was born to Mrs Lambert, wife of Richard, architect and builder of Cimitiere Street, on 10 July 1840. Mary Ann Elizabeth was born on 28 December 1842 to Richard Peter Lambert and his wife Maria, nee Bickford. Mordaunt Gloynes was born in 1845.

In the jury list for 1840, Richard Lambeth was a builder of Cimitiere Street, in 1842 he was in Canning Street and by 1843 he was again in Cimitiere Street. Lambeth was the architect of the Launceston Synagogue, commenced in 1844 and completed in 1846. Mr R Lambeth departed with his wife and family on the *Union* to Adelaide on 29 March 1846.

References: P F Ratcliff, *The Usefulness of John West* (Launceston, 2003); *Launceston Advertiser* 27 September 1838; RGD 33/1839/67; *Cornwall Chronicle* 11 July 1840; RGD 33/1843/1283; Jury list for 1840, 1842 and 1843, on Mitchell Library microfiche CY 878; Peter and Ann Elias, *A Few from Afar* (Hobart, 2003); Shipping arrivals and departures from early Launceston newspapers on microfiche; AOT Colonial Tasmanian Family Links database.

Eric Ratcliff's article about two transient architects in THRA P&P Vol 54, no 2, August 2007, provides more details of Richard Lambeth's work in Launceston.

## Alfred Harrap & Son Pty Ltd



The Launceston firm of Alfred Harrap & Son Pty Ltd was founded by Alfred Harrap in Launceston in 1857 in premises on the Esplanade, facing the Queen's Wharf on the North Esk River. Grain and produce were sold and exchanged, later wool-broking was undertaken and the firm maintained a river steamer service along the Tamar. In 1887 additional premises were purchased in Cameron Street. After Alfred Harrap's death in 1893, his son George (1856-1937) became manager of the business.

Emilie Louise Harrap, born in 1854, was the eldest of seven children of Alfred Harrap and his wife Amelia Tobin. This portrait, taken in 1891, is from the Launceston Family

Album website: [www.launcestonfamilyalbum.org.au](http://www.launcestonfamilyalbum.org.au)

Reference: Alfred Harrap & Son Pty Ltd, *A Century of Service, 1857-1957* (Launceston, 1957)

## Antonio Martini: another character from the Fuller Papers

Antonio Martini was born in Cadiz, Spain c.1780. As a young man he joined the British Militia to protect Portugal against Napoleon's invading army. In 1810 he was caught deserting, court-martialled in 1811 and sentenced to fourteen years transportation to NSW.

He arrived in Sydney on the *Guilford* on 7 January 1812 and shortly afterwards was transferred to Hobart on the *Ruby*. In 1814, John Pascoe Fawkner aided Martini and six other convicts in an attempt to escape in a boat, but Martini was apprehended and sent to NSW. In 1817, after returning to Hobart, he entered into a short-lived partnership with Fawkner as bakers and publicans in Macquarie Street.

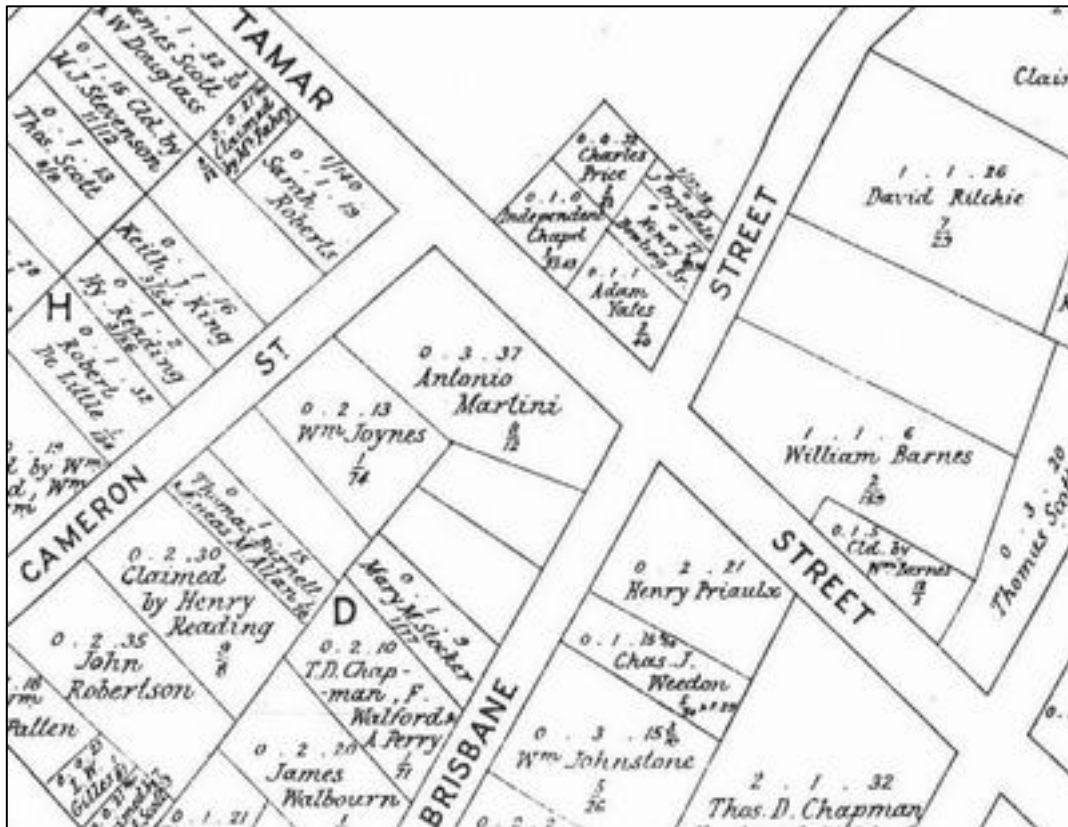
By 1823 he had received his ticket-of-leave and moved to Launceston. The same year he bought a town allotment in Tamar Street and three years later purchased adjoining land. In 1825 he received his certificate of freedom and built two dwellings on his land. One structure, a two-storey wooden building with verandah and balcony, was to become known as Martini's Corner. About 1828 he rented this building to B Smythe, who conducted his Cornwall Collegiate Institution there until 1834, when Martini converted the building to a hotel, calling it the *Sawyer's Arms*. He was the licensee until 1843.

About 1832 he started a timber business in partnership with William Burke: in 1833 Martini was listed as a sawyer in Launceston. In 1833 he married Mary O'Mara, who had arrived in Hobart on the *Norval* in 1830. They had a son, born in 1834, and a daughter, born in 1836. Mary died on 18 June 1836, soon after the birth of her daughter.

In 1838 Martini constructed a wooden building in Cameron Street, next to his hotel on the corner of Tamar and Cameron streets, to serve as the first dedicated place of worship for the Catholics of Launceston. It was the Catholic Chapel from 1838 to 1842, when St Joseph's was opened in Margaret Street. He built a brick hotel on the corner of Brisbane and Tamar streets in 1844. Later named the *Royal Oak*, it was leased by the Martini family to a succession of publicans until the 1950s when it passed out of the Martini family ownership. Antonio Martini died at his home in Tamar Street on 6 March 1867, aged eighty-seven years.

### References:

Judith Borrick, *Holycross: the story of the O'Mara family* (Indooroopilly, Queensland, 2003); *The Van Diemen's Land annual and Hobart Town almanack for the year 1833* (Hobart, 1833); David Radford, *A-Z of Launceston's colonial public house licensees 1824-1900* (Launceston, 2003).



Launceston Land grant map showing Antonio Martini's property in Tamar Street.  
Compiled and drawn at the Survey Office Hobart by M K Phillips, July 1943.  
Source: Local Studies Collection, Launceston Library.

## Exchange Journals

The following journals are available for members to read at the next meeting:

- Channel Heritage Museum, *Newsletter*
- Cultural Heritage Practitioners Tasmania, *Newsletter*
- Devonport Maritime Museum and Historical Society, *Time & Tide*
- George Town and District Historical Society, *Newsletter*
- National Book Council of Tasmania, speaker notice
- National Trust Magazine
- Royal Historical Society of Victoria, *History News*
- Tasmanian Historical Research Association, *Newsletter*
- Trust News

## Other Items and Events of Interest

**National Trust of Australia (Tasmania):** New website [www.nationaltrusttas.org.au](http://www.nationaltrusttas.org.au).

**The National Book Council of Tasmania:** speaker for October is Chris Binks, author of *Hills of the west wind: reflections on the Tasmanian landscape* at 1.15pm, Wednesday 19 October 2007, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library, Civic Square, Launceston.

**Centre for Tasmanian Historical Studies:** Enterprise and livelihood in the Tasmanian past. Keynote speaker Geoffrey Blainey. Saturday 20 October 2007, Dechaineux Theatre, School of Art, Hunter Street, Hobart. Two LHS members are presenting papers – **Nic Haygarth** on *Bischoff and the boom: the impact of the Mount Bischoff tin mine on Tasmania's economic and social development*, and **Roger Kellaway** on *The Battery Point penguin oil distillery, 1911-1921*.

**Tamar Tidings**, written by Stella Kent, and directed by Peter Hammond and Robert Lewis.

Coming to a pontoon near you:

Old Seaport Marina, Launceston – 29 & 30 October 7.30pm

York Cove, George Town – 1 & 2 November 7.30pm

Windermere – 4 & 5 November 2.00pm

Gravelly Beach – 7 & 8 November 7.30pm

Clarence Point – 10 & 11 November 7.30pm

Gravelly Beach – 13 & 14 November 7.30pm

**Local History Conference:** *Defending the Colony: the Military in Tasmania, 1803 to the present.* Richmond. 2-4 November 2007. Enquiries: [el\\_green@bigpond.com](mailto:el_green@bigpond.com).

**Network for Early European Research:** *Useful Knowledges and Vernacularity: Manuscripts, Readers and Information in Late Medieval England*, Symposium 9-11 November 2007, Flexible Education Room, University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay campus. Enquiries: [jenna.mead@utas.edu.au](mailto:jenna.mead@utas.edu.au).

**Victorian Picnic:** Franklin House, Youngtown, 11.30am – 3.30pm, Sunday 11 November 2007. Entry by pre-paid picnic hamper. Enquiries: 6344 7824.

**Restoration Central, Conservation Workshop 2007:** a free one-day seminar with trade displays and demonstrations including drystone walling, roofing, shingles, stonemasonry and fences. 9.00am-5.00pm, Saturday 17 November 2007, at Oatlands. Bookings essential by 2 November. Enquiries: Brad Williams, [bwilliams@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](mailto:bwilliams@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au) or phone 6254 5047.

**George Town and District Historical Society** meetings: Monday 19 November, *Tales of the Depression Years*.

**Bicentenary of the arrival of the Norfolk Islanders in Van Diemen's Land, 1807-2007:**

Hobart Town (1804) First Settlers Association conference, Wrest Point, Hobart, 2 December 2007.

THRA, one-day conference, 16 March 2008. Enquiries: [Alison.Alexander@utas.edu.au](mailto:Alison.Alexander@utas.edu.au).

Descendents Day Get Together, City Hall, Hobart, 29 March 2008. Enquiries: Irene Schaffer, phone 6272 2124, or email [schaffer@optusnet.com.au](mailto:schaffer@optusnet.com.au).

**Network for Early European Research:** *Temporalities Symposium*, Speakers include Carolyn Dinshaw, Prof. of Social and Cultural Analysis, English, New York University, 17-18 December 2007, University of Tasmania. Enquiries: [jenna.mead@utas.edu.au](mailto:jenna.mead@utas.edu.au).

**Australian Women's History Forum (incorporating Women's History Month):** March 2008 forum theme is *Women with a mission: Australian women contributing overseas*. New website [www.womenshistory.com.au](http://www.womenshistory.com.au) and email [info@womenshistory.com.au](mailto:info@womenshistory.com.au).

**East Launceston Primary School's 100th anniversary:** 14 -19 April 2008: School Open Days 17-19 April; Mother' Club Luncheon 16 April; Afternoon Tea 17 April; Back to East Family Day and Cocktail Evening 19 April. Enquiries: [ELPS.100@gmail.com](mailto:ELPS.100@gmail.com) or East Launceston Primary School (Centennial Celebrations), Mary Street, East Launceston, TAS 7250.

**The Centre for Scholarly and Archival Research (CSAR)** at the National Film and Sound Archive is seeking applications for CSAR Research Fellowships. Established researchers and audiovisual practitioners with a record of significant achievement are encouraged to apply. Further information including application forms can be found at [www.nfsa.afc.gov.au/csar](http://www.nfsa.afc.gov.au/csar).

## Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the 13 November LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **31 October 2007**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 December 2007** at [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com) or PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.