



Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 105

December 2007

ISSN 1036-7950

PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

Christmas Edition



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Launceston Historical Society members and all readers of this Newsletter. We are anticipating another stimulating series of talks and activities in 2008.

Christmas at 'Egremont'

Sunday 23 December 2007 2.30 – 4.30pm

Celebrate Christmas and the end of a successful year for the Launceston Historical Society with afternoon-tea at 'Egremont', 20 Welman Street, Launceston. Bring a plate of Christmas fare and view photographs from the Moorina trip. Marita will conduct guided tours of this beautiful historic home built for the Harrap family. Recent publications by members will be available for sale on the day. RSVP Marita Bardenhagen, phone 6334 4490 or email mbardenh@bigpond.net.au.

Main features:

Moorina Excursion Report, page 2
North Esk Panels, the Wreck of *George The Third* and Backstreet Architecture, page 3
Launceston Water Supply, page 4
Launceston Historical Society History Prize for 2008, page 4
First monthly speaker for 2008 will be Tim Jetson, page 4
Way Back When articles, page 5
Members' Column, pages 6-7

LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President	Marita Bardenhagen	6334 4490
Vice-President	Jenny Gill	6331 1150
Minute Secretary	Ross Smith	
Correspondence Secretary	Rosalie Kelly	
Treasurer	Carol Fuller	6331 1558
Newsletter Editor	Marion Sargent	6331 4890

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

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

Excursion to the Moorina Power Station Sunday 14 October



Moorina Power Station.



Derby Mine tunnel entrance.



Branxholm water race.

Photos: Marion Sargent

Twenty eight members of the LHS enjoyed a memorable day in the Moorina/Derby region. We were given a tour of the Moorina power station by Co-owner, Mike Cook. We were able to see the large turbine machines in the powerhouse and to wander outside to admire the penstock and water race, above and below. The old machinery is an amazing sight, built in 1909, and still in operation.

We visited the old cemetery at Moorina, where we saw the memorial to the Chinese miners who formed an important part of the regions' mining and social history.

After lunch at the Derby Tin Mine centre, we set off to look through the Derby Tunnel. We were met by Bill Thorne, who guided us through the 2,000 foot tunnel.

We drove off to Branxholm to meet with Eileen Edwards who guided us along an impressive section of the Great Briseis Water Race.

Homeward bound, we diverted course to inspect the spectacular tree carvings at Legerwood. The carvings, cut into the remnant trunks of large pines previously forming an ANZAC Avenue of Honour, now remain a continuing memorial to the ANZACs from the local region. Climbing back on the bus, we arrived back at the museum a tad after 6pm, happy after such a good day. All thanks to Nic Haygarth for organising such a great excursion.

By Rosalie Kelly (Correspondence Secretary)

See also Nic Haygarth's article published in *The Examiner* on Saturday 10 November 2007 page 39 entitled *Oldest power station a living treasure*.

North Esk panels

The North Esk historical interpretation panels in the reserve at Hobler's Bridge Road were unveiled by The Hon Don Wing MLC and presented to the then Mayor Ivan Dean on behalf of the City of Launceston, by the Historical Society on Friday 19 October. The wind-blown ceremony was followed by morning-tea at the Northern Tasmanian Netball Centre. The Hon. Don Wing, MLC and Anne Bartlett (Co-Ordinator of the Sub-Committee) are pictured examining the panels.



The Hon. Don Wing and Anne Bartlett.
Photo: Marion Sargent

These panels depict the history of the North Esk River from exploration and early settlement, including industries, railways, the powder magazine, recreation, and properties in the village of St Leonards: Dunedin, Mount Esk and Ashfield.

Assisted by the North Esk Landcare Group, Society members who helped collate the information depicted on the panels are Anne Bartlett, John Dent, Peter Cox, Jill Cassidy and Marita Bardenhagen. Next time you take a stroll, cycle or walk your dog along the North Esk River Walk, pause to reflect on the history of this area.

An article on the opening was published in *The Examiner* on Saturday 20 October 2007, page 14.

The Wreck of *George The Third*

On 21 October Michael Roe presented an interesting talk examining the demise of the convict transport *George The Third* which, after a harrowing voyage from England, struck a rock in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel in 1835. Prof Roe is seeking more information on the survivors of the wreck, two of whom were James Ferguson and William McKay. A Scottish native, James Ferguson aged 76 died at Launceston in 1896. A farmer, probably at St Leonards, he died from hydatids. William McKay was at Campbell Town in 1840, and one so-called died there in 1865 after languishing from a debility for several years. Are these the same convicts who were on *George The Third* and did the latter suffer from the effects of scurvy contracted on the voyage?

After my brother, Bill Sargent, read of Prof Roe's talk, he sent me the following email:

Was interested to see the note re *George The Third* sinking in D'Entrecasteaux Channel. When I sailed on *Wasatch* in 1993 [celebrating 350 years plus one since Abel Tasman's voyage to VDL] we saw George III Rock marked on the chart. We looked out for it warily but couldn't see it. Eventually we realised from the chart legend that it was a submerged rock! And then we realised that we'd sailed right over it!! I suppose the convict ship drew more than *Wasatch*, but we'll never know how close we came to joining those 133 souls lost on the *George The Third* ... ☺



Back street architecture in Launceston

Eric Ratcliff's well attended talk on 18 November focussed on a comparison of residential architecture in Launceston with that of England. The lecture was illustrated by photographs of houses with interesting features. Regrettably, many of those Launceston homes are no longer standing.

Dr Ratcliff is pictured with his wife Patricia.

Photo: Marion Sargent

Launceston Water Supply

A plaquing ceremony was held in Prince's Square on 23 October 2007 to commemorate 150 years of Launceston's water supply. The Institution of Engineers Australia, Launceston City Council and Esk Water took part in the ceremony. An historic engineering marker was unveiled to recognize the incredible engineering feat of diverting water from St Patrick's River via a water race and tunnel to Distillery Creek to a dam above Waverley and piped across the North Esk River at Hobler's Bridge to brick reservoirs off High Street and Hill Street. The gravity-fed scheme was completed in 1857, with the Mayor, Henry Dowling, opening the sluice gates on 23 October of that year.



Exactly 150 years later the Mayor, Ivan Dean, unveiled a second plaque (pictured) celebrating the scheme which still serves Launceston today. Both plaques were placed in the concrete surrounds of the magnificent fountain in Prince's Square, which was purchased from a Parisian firm exhibiting at the London Exhibition, and erected in 1858 to celebrate the new water scheme. By 1860 Launceston had public drinking fountains, two fire brigades and work on a sewerage scheme had begun.

Photo: Launceston City Council

Advance Notice of Activities

2008 Launceston Historical Society History Prize – “Why study history?”

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Society in 1988, six prizes will be awarded to young people interested in history. These will consist of three prizes for essays discussing the topic “Why study history?” and three for posters depicting the same theme. Students living in the 63 telephone area are eligible to enter in the following categories:

- Grade 10 – 500 word essay
- Grades 11 and 12 – 750 word essay
- First and second year University students enrolled in history – 1000 word essay
- Primary School students – poster
- Grades 7 to 10 – poster
- Grades 11 and 12 – poster

Entry forms and guidelines will be available in the New Year on the Launceston Historical Society's website: www.elaunceston.com/launcestonhistory. Certificates and book vouchers are to be awarded to the winners in July 2008. Please send entries to the Launceston Historical Society Inc PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 by early May 2008.

Saturday & Sunday 26-27 January 2008 – Excursion to Waratah

The Society has organised an excursion to Waratah during the Australia Day long weekend in January 2008. This exciting foray into West Coast mining history is booked fully!!

Sunday 24 February 2008, 2.30pm – Tim Jetson: A history of droving in Western Tasmania

Tim will discuss the droving of cattle between the Circular Head district and the mining centres on the West Coast.

Friday 14 March 2008, 8.00pm – 20th *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.

The lecture will be held in the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre at the University of Tasmania, Launceston.

Saturday 19 April 2008 Symposium – Industrial Heritage in Northern Tasmania

WAY BACK WHEN ... People Places and Events

This popular series draws to a close at the end of January 2008. Eventually we hope to see all the stories published in book form. The articles can be read on the LHS website www.elaunceston.com/launcestonhistory.

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

- Lorraine Wootton: Families settle on rich, fertile land near river – *The Examiner*, 13 October 2007, p. 44
- Peter Cox: Bridge assured future of Ross – *The Examiner*, 20 October 2007, p. 44
- Gus Green: Explosives stored in city – *The Examiner*, 27 October 2007, p. 47
- Jai Patterson: First Scotch reverend a man of mystery – *The Examiner*, 3 November 2007, p. 41
- John Paull: Bishop victim of a deadly quack – *The Examiner*, 10 Nov 2007, p. 48
- John Watts: Samuel dead within days of marriage – *The Examiner*, 17 November 2007, p. 79
- Anne Bartlett: Sergeant does his duty amid threats of violence – *The Examiner*, 24 November 2007, p.B6
- John Watts: Drowning tragedy strikes family twice – *The Examiner*, 1 December 2007, p.44
- Lorraine Wootton: 'Bowood' an oasis in the North-East – *The Examiner*, 8 December 2007, p. 47

Recent Publications by Members

Keith Adkins, *John Glover and his books*, in *Tasmania* 40 South, Issue 46, Spring 2007, page 36.

York Town Historic Site. The West Tamar Historical Society and others have produced this informative pamphlet depicting the site of the first permanent settlement in northern Tasmania. Copies can be obtained from the Parks and Wildlife Service and from the Grubb Shaft Museum. We look forward to the publishing of the long-awaited book on the history of York Town.

Paul A C Richards & Murray Johnson, *Health, wealth & tribulation: Launceston's Cataract Gorge*. Several LHS members have been involved in the compilation of this fascinating book exploring the icon gorge in the heart of Launceston. Topics from the geology, fauna, flora, aboriginal inhabitants and various aspects of European settlement including convicts, industries, art, leisure and recreation, bridges and tourism, are covered. The LHS members who contributed are: Lynn Blackwood, Jill Cassidy, John Dent, Tom Dunning, Eric Ratcliff, Paul Richards and Barbara Valentine. Books are available for purchase from Paul Richards at Myola House of Publishing 397 Wellington Street SOUTH LAUNCESTON TAS 7249 for \$35.00.

Jai Paterson, *A fortune may be made...Launceston's 19th century breweries*. This is the second in a series of books on local history published by the Friends of the Library, Launceston. Jai traces the history of breweries in Launceston from William Barnes' Port Dalrymple Brewery established in 1824 to William Henry Abbott's Phoenix Brewery set up in 1891. James Boag's Esk Brewery is the only one which survives today. Copies are available for sale at the Launceston Library for \$25.00.

Members' Column

Committee vacancy

It is with regret that the LHS committee has accepted the resignation - due to work commitments - of our correspondence secretary, Jai Paterson. Jai has been an enthusiastic member of the committee and is to be commended for her beautifully crafted letters. Rosalie Kelly has stepped into Jai's shoes, but now the Society is seeking another committee member to assist. Please let any of the committee members know if you are interested in becoming a part of this vibrant group.

Jenny Gill, our Vice-President, recently attended a national conference in Adelaide 'SIMPLY THE BEST 2 – Reflections on Women in the Records'. At the three-day conference Jenny presented a paper on Nineteenth Century Female Educators, using many examples from her research into the Dame Schools in Tasmania.

Jenny Gill, D V Gunn Archivist, President Broadland House Old Girls' Association, Member ASA



Jill Cassidy – Profile

Jill Cassidy was born in Hobart and educated in Burnie, Devonport and Hobart, graduating with History Honours from the University of Tasmania, followed by a Diploma of Education. After stints at Ogilvie and Brooks High School, she taught history and English at Launceston and Alanvale Colleges.

For 20 years from 1984 she worked at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, researching and writing historical reports on Tasmanian industries, curating exhibitions, and becoming the Museum's inaugural Oral Historian. This latter role led her to initiate the Tasmanian Branch of the Oral History Association of Australia, becoming the inaugural president. She is still involved with this organisation and for some years has been the National Vice-President as well. She is now Honorary Research Associate with the Museum and is pursuing her research into Tasmanian flour mills.

Jill is a member of the Tasmanian Family History Society and served three years as judge of the Lilian Watson Family History Award. She was a founding member of the Launceston Historical Society, and recently has been the publicity officer. She has spoken at several symposia and was one of the LHS members preparing the North Esk interpretation panels, recently launched at the Hobler's Bridge Reserve.

Recording Research

Do you need to do some interviewing for your research and want to record it? It's a good way to keep tabs on what you're hearing, and you might also want to give copies of your interview to the people you talk to.

The Tasmanian Branch of the Oral History Association of Australia hires out a high-quality Fostex digital recorder for just \$30 a week (with conditions, including annual OHAA membership of \$35). The recorder comes with a set of simple instructions, and allows you to download the interview direct to your computer. You will need access to a PC which runs on Windows ME, 2000 or XP and has a USB connection, or a recent Mac. You can then burn the interview to CD, and also use free software for transcription if required.

Anyone interested should contact Jill Cassidy on 6394 7677 or 0418 178 098 or email at mandjcassidy@gmail.com

Eric Ratcliff presented a paper, *Writing a history of architecture in Tasmania*, on 25 October 2007 at the School of Architecture, UTAS.

Marita Bardenhagen's travelling exhibition entitled 'Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Lives' a pictorial history of Bush Nursing in Tasmania 1910-1957 was on display recently at two conferences celebrating '90 years of the Child Health Association and Nursing in Tasmania' held in Hobart and Launceston. It was also on display at Tresca, Exeter in November. Marita will be taking the exhibition to Smithton in January 2008 and then to Waratah from 26 January.

Historical Glimpses: Launceston's Cataract Gorge historical seminar was held at 'Eskleigh Home' on 17 November 2007. LHS members who presented talks were: John Dent, Tom Dunning and Paul Richards. The seminar was held in conjunction with the launch by Eric Ratcliff of *Health, wealth & tribulation: Launceston's Cataract Gorge*, and the art exhibition 'Moods of the Cataract Gorge'.

John and Denise Paull were featured in 'Ali's people' in *The Examiner* on 3 December 2007, page 17. The title of *Theatre of love* describes the couple admirably. John spoke at a recent Historical Society meeting on his research into Dr William Pugh and his acquaintances.

New Members

The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Sandra Bowdler, Scott Bell, Chris Binks, Noel and Mary Cheetham, Marie Gatenby, Mary Hoggett and Peter Richardson.

Can you help?

'Old Umbrella Shop'

Kim Simpson is registering and cataloguing the collection of umbrellas and other items at the National Trust's 'Old Umbrella Shop' in George Street. He is also documenting the building. Kim is interested in hearing from members who may have information on the Shott family, including the business side of things.

'Clarendon House'

Volunteers are needed at the National Trust property of 'Clarendon House', 20 minutes south of Launceston. One day a month could be great; the opening hours are 10am to 4pm, seven days a week (closed during Winter months). Duties would include helping out in the Gift Shop & conducting brief tours.

For more information could you please contact: Jill or Len Langan

Tel: (03) 6391 3048, Mobile: 0402 307 277

Email: lwlangan@westnet.com.au

Aboriginal & Early Settler contact

The request below was sent in from an avid historian. If anyone can help Julie with her queries, please contact her directly.

I find the short accounts in 'Way Back When' fascinating and quite addictive reading. I am a visual artist and a descendant of Dalrymple Briggs (c.1812 - 1864) with a committed interest in finding out more about the past, especially early cross-cultural colonial history.

I am hoping to learn more about interactions between Tasmanian Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people especially up to 1840 including with pilots, sailors, sealers, stockkeepers, servants, convicts, gaolers, magistrates, police, inn keepers, bushrangers, and of people arriving pre 1830. Some names include: Archer, Captain Barclay, John Batman, Benbow, Brumby, Anthony Cotterell, Cotton family, Thomas Crawley, Edward Curr, Richard Dry, W Fawcett, James Gibson, James Grant, John Woodcock Graves Jnr, Thomas G Gregson, Jonathan Griffiths, Police Magistrate Hargrave, George Hobler, A W H Humphrey,

Robert Jones, Captain A F Kemp, Rev Robert Knopwood, Peter Mills, Captain Moriarty, Dr Jacob Mountgarrett, Captain Nairn, Dr Richard Rowland Priest, Henry Reed, Thomas Reibey, Thomas Scott, Dr John Smith, Malcolm Laing Smith, Governor Sorell, W T Stocker, Thomas, Captain John Townson, William Wentworth, George Whitcomb, John Youl and others.

Also, I hope to learn more of Aboriginal children living with the following families/individuals in the early 1800s including [surnames]: Allan, Batman, Birch, Bray, Bromley, Bunce, Busby, Cameron, Campbell, Connelly, Cox – also Sammy Cox story, Cronan, Davis, Dempsey, Dutton, Franklin, Goldie, Griffiths, Hardwicke, Harman, Harrington, Heaney, Hogan, Holman, Jinkins, Jones, Kerr, Kirby, Landale, Logan, Lucas, Lyttleton, Martin, McCauley, McClure, McSweeney, Morrison, Mountgarrett, Murray, Patten, Pearson, Priaulx, Reibey, Seal, Sherwood, Smith, Tanner, Thornloe, Thomas, Thompson, Titchett/Farum?, Wedge and Weston.

What would be most exciting would be to speak with people regarding any original source material such as letters and diaries/journals and family stories with details of those times and contact with Aboriginal people. I will be in Tasmania January - April 2008 and can travel to meet anyone interested.

Many thanks, Julie Gough, julie.gough@jcu.edu.au

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

The following booklet published by the National Archives of Australia may be borrowed:

- Keep it for the future! How to set up small community archives

More Moorina Excursion photos



Legerwood carving.
Photo: Carol Fuller



Gus Green and Bill Thorne at Derby. Photo: Marion Sargent

Other Items and Events of Interest

George Town and District Historical Society:

Low Head Conference, Pilot Station Boat Shed, Saturday 16 February 2008, 9.00am. Papers will be presented by two LHS members: **Jai Paterson** on *Mr Hyron's sea change*; and **Peter Richardson** on *Sammy Cox: mythbusting the story of Tasmania's first white settler*.

Women Transported – Life in Australia's Convict Female Factories:

Parramatta Heritage Centre is looking for objects, images and information for an exhibition to be held next year. Are you a descendant of a convict who spent time at the Cascade, Ross, Launceston, George Town or Hobart Female Factories? If you would like to share any information contact: Gay Hendriksen, PO Box 32 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124, Phone 02 8839 3324, or email ghendriksen@parracity.nsw.gov.au.

National Trust of Australia (Tasmania):

New website www.nationaltrusttas.org.au.

The Tasmanian Heritage Festival will be celebrated in April 2008. The theme will be "Leisure and Recreation – Tasmania's Magical Landscapes".

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

THRA, one-day conference, 16 March 2008. Enquiries: Alison.Alexander@utas.edu.au.

Descendants Day Get Together, City Hall, Hobart, 29 March 2008. Enquiries: Irene Schaffer, phone 6272 2124, or email schaffer@optusnet.com.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 and email info@womenshistory.com.au.

Community, Place and Heritage Research Unit:

Representatives from the West Tamar, George Town and District and Launceston Historical Societies (Peter Cox, John Dent and Marita Bardenhagen) met informally with Henry Reynolds and Anne Fitzgerald to discuss the formation of the new UTAS Community, Place and Heritage Research Unit. This meeting was set to clarify their mission and to discuss the forming of partnerships with the three organizations. It was suggested that students from the unit be invited to speak at our meetings. Projects currently underway include the study of the NorthEastern trails of G A Robinson and the settlement of Norfolk Plains. Early discussions are taking place on the history of the Chinese in Launceston. The Unit is aiming to work closely with the QVMAG and the National Trust and local researchers in the discovery and appreciation of what is distinctive about the North. Commencing in 2008, the Unit is working to support the local publication of Ian McFarlane's North West Aboriginal study and Eric Ratcliff's history of architecture in Tasmania. The meeting was designed to facilitate research and share resources in the north.

Enquiries to Anne Fitzgerald, Coordinator, Community, Place & Heritage Research Unit, Faculty of Arts, University of Tasmania, Launceston. Email: A.M.Fitzgerald@utas.edu.au, Ph: 6324 3215, Fax: 6324 3483.

University of Tasmania & Riawunna:

Professor Bill Gammage AM, will present lectures on **Galahs** in March 2008. When Europeans arrived in Australia, galahs were typically inland birds, quite sparsely distributed. Now they range from coast to coast, and are common. Why did this change occur? Why didn't it occur earlier? The talk argues that because galahs feed on the ground, Australia's dominant inland grasses were too tall, so they relied on an agency to shorten them: Aboriginal grain harvesting before contact, introduced stock after contact. Professor Bill Gammage is a visiting fellow in the Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University, studying Aboriginal attitudes to land and land management from a historical perspective. His

books include *The Broken Years: Australian Soldiers in the Great War* (1974), *The Sky Travellers: Journeys in New Guinea 1938-39* (1998), and *Narrandera Shire* (1986).

Lecture tour dates: Hobart 6 March, Burnie 12 March, Launceston 13 March. Check media closer to the date for details of locations and times.

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 or East Launceston Primary School (Centennial Celebrations), Mary Street, EAST LAUNCESTON, TAS 7250.

Launceston Historic Walks:

Former LHS member Monica Harris has moved to Hobart. Her popular historic walks around Launceston are now conducted by Robyn Jones of '1842' from the Tourist Information Centre. Phone 6331 2213.

The Launceston City Council Planning Scheme Review:

This is particularly pertinent as the built heritage of Launceston is very much a part of our interest base. The draft review can be viewed at <http://www.launceston.tas.gov.au>.

The Tasmanian Heritage Review:

A position paper detailing the proposed reforms to the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* is available to view at <http://www.heritage.tas.gov.au>.

Still More Moorina Excursion Photos!



Duane & Rosalie Kelly.



Moorina pipeline leak.

Photos: Marion Sargent

Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the January 2008 LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **3 January 2008**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **3 February 2008** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.