



Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 106

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

From the Editor's Desk

Christmas Function

Approximately 30 people enjoyed the Christmas function at the historic home of 'Egremont'. Thanks to Marita and Alex for hosting the afternoon tea.

Pictured at the right are Jenny Gill, Gus Green and Angela Prosser-Green in the reception room. (Photos: Marion Sargent)



Waratah excursion

On Australia Day, Saturday 26 January, 26 of our intrepid Historical Society members and our reliable coach driver, Kerry, travelled via Sheffield and the Cradle Mountain link road to Waratah. After a buffet-style meal at the Bischoff Hotel, we explored the mining town's attractions: the old Waratah Cemetery; Pennys Dam; Dudley Kenworthy's Stamper Mill; the Waratah Museum; Philosopher Smith's hut; the Athenaeum Hall; St James' Anglican Church; and the waterfall in the main street. We were revived by a welcome cup of tea prior to visiting the Mt Bischoff Mine where our guide Derek spent two hours showing us the old mine workings and discussed plans for the future. A barbecue in the park overlooking the waterfall rounded off a glorious day.

After an early start on Sunday, we headed off to Corinna for a cruise along the Pieman River on the 1939 vessel *Arcadia II*. Beautiful rainforests with Huon pine and leatherwood trees, soaring eagles, lunch on the beach and a walk to the Pieman Heads made this day something special. Homeward-bound via Burnie with afternoon tea at Bayviews Café on the beachfront ended a fabulous weekend. A big thank you must go to Nic Haygarth, who organised the trip, and whose wealth of historical knowledge of the region added so much to the excursion. See page 5 for a selection of photographs.

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)

February Talk

Sunday 24 February – 2.30pm in the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk

Tim Jetson: A history of droving in Western Tasmania

This talk sets the context for the droving of cattle between the Circular Head district and the mining centres on the West Coast. It describes the alternative routes and suggests why the coastal track became the preferred option. Different phases of usage are identified and key characters discussed. After noting the different sources used to reconstruct the history, reasons for the demise of droving are explored.

Tim was born in Tasmania and spent much of his childhood in Riverside. Graduating from the University of Tasmania, he has taught in city and country schools – mainly in northern Tasmania – and has been a Research Fellow at the University. As the topic suggests, he has written about aspects of Tasmania's rural history; besides institutional histories, for example, schools and the National Trust.

Tim has written: *The roof of Tasmania: the history of the Central Plateau* (1987); and *It's a different country down there: a history of droving in Western Tasmania* (2004) being the most significant ones. Also *In trust for the nation: the first forty years of the National Trust in Tasmania* (2000).

March Lecture

20th The Examiner-John West Memorial Lecture

Friday 14 March – 8.00pm in the Lecture Theatre, Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania, Launceston.

Professor Henry Reynolds will present this year's lecture.

Henry Reynolds was born in Tasmania, educated at the Hobart High School and the University of Tasmania. He worked for 30 years in Townsville at James Cook University and is currently an Australian Research Council Senior Fellow at the University of Tasmania in Launceston. His primary research interest has been the history of Aboriginal–white relations in Australia. His publications include *Aborigines and Settlers*, *The Other Side of the Frontier*, *The Law of the Land*, *Dispossession*, *With the White People*, *Why Weren't We Told?* and *An Indelible Stain?* It is timely after 20 years for Professor Reynolds to revisit this audience, coinciding with the Prime Minister's apology to re-examine indigenous and white relations in Australia.

Phillip Adams is unable to present the lecture as advertised in previous newsletters.

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.

Advance Notice of Activities

Saturday 19 April 2008 – Symposium: Industrial Heritage in Northern Tasmania.

Saturday 18 May 2008 – Nic Haygarth: the LHS launch of Nic's new book, *The wild ride: Revolutions that shaped Tasmanian black-and-white 'wilderness' photography*.

Saturday 15 June 2008 – Steve Radford: Bass Strait/Furneaux Group shipping.

WAY BACK WHEN ... People Places and Events

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

The articles can be read on the LHS website www.elaunceston.com/launcestonhistory.

- Lorraine Wootton: Booming business around 'Bowood'– (Brewer family), 15 December 2007, p. 77
- Peter Cox: Fingal's golden history revealed – (Mangana), 22 December 2007, p. 62
- John Watts: From child miner to educator and geologist – (Thomas Hainsworth), 29 December 2007, p. 57
- Anthony Jessup: Family reunited in Van Diemen's Land – (Bonner family), 5 January, 2008, p. 65
- Jenny Gill: Variety the key to business – (John Fitzgerald), 12 January 2008, p. 39
- Jenny Gill: Stories from a conversational life – (John Fitzgerald), 19 January, 2008, p. 42
- Gill Morris: She saw seashells with love – (Mary Lodder), 26 January, 2008, p. 47
- Anthony Jessup: A boon to business – (James & Joseph Heazlewood), 2 February, 2008, p. B3

2005 Papers & Proceedings

The 2005 LHS Papers & Proceedings have been printed, with copies posted to all those who previously paid for them. Extra P&P will be available for \$12.00 at the next meeting on 24 February. Contact Marita Bardenhagen if you require copies to be posted. Postage will be added to the cost.

Recent Publications by Members

Anne Green, *A model municipality: places of management, mentoring and medicine in Launceston*. This is the third book in the series 'Stories in stone'. It documents the history of public buildings and communications, hospitals, chemists and cemeteries, schools and the Mechanics' Institute, churches and the Synagogue. Beautifully illustrated with photographs, maps and ephemera, it is a valuable addition to the history of Launceston.

Nic Haygarth, *Booming Tasmania: How the Anson/Beattie Photographic Studio Sold the Island and Itself 1880-1901*. This is Nic's second State Library of Tasmania Research Fellowship report. He also wrote (Nov 2007) a publication for Britton Timbers (Smithton) called *Celebrating a Century of Britton Timbers: Tasmania's Blackwood Dynasty*.

Members' Column

Membership renewals

The annual subscriptions for the Launceston Historical Society were due on 31 January 2008. Please complete the enclosed form and return to the treasurer, Carol Fuller, at the next meeting or post to the Treasurer, LHS, PO Box 1296, LAUNCESTON, TAS 7250

Marita Bardenhagen's travelling exhibition entitled 'Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Lives; a pictorial history of Bush Nursing in Tasmania 1910-1957' will be in Waratah from 26 January until mid March.

New Members

The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Manfred Koshin, Alex, Jessie, Brigid and David Thomson.

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*
- Federation of Australian Historical Societies Inc., *FAHS Newsletter*
- 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*.

Copies are available for sale @ \$4.95 each, plus \$5.00 postage. Write to the National Archives of Australia, PO Box 7425, CANBERRA BC, ACT 2610 or order online from <https://shop.naa.gov.au>.

Art Deco buildings in Launceston

Does anyone have any stories to tell about significant art deco buildings in Launceston? Amelia Whalley from Art Deco Tasmania is creating a trail similar to the Burnie Art Deco Trail brochure launched recently. Contact Amelia on www.artdecotasmania.com.au, Ph: 0417 409 913, Fax: 03 6431 8844, Email: amelia@artdecotasmania.com.au.

Waratah Excursion Photographs



Old Waratah Cemetery. Photo: M Sargent



Denise & the Waratah Waterfall.
Photo: John Paull



Derek explaining a point on Mt Bischoff. Photo: M Sargent



Admiring the view from Mt Bischoff. Photo: M Sargent



Tour leader Nic
Haygarth.
Photo: John Paull



Arcadia II on the Pieman River. Photo: John Paull

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-3.30pm. \$30.00 includes morning and afternoon tea and light lunch. 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*. Other speakers will be: Anne Terry, Eleanor Cave, Brendan Lyons, Nic Mooney, Mary Jane Lawrie, Ian McFarlane and Lindsay Millar. Enquiries: Thomas Gunn 6324 3629 (work) or 6334 4756 (home) or Anne Green 0408 370 646.

National Book Council of Tasmania: speaker for February is LHS member **Jai Paterson**, author of *A fortune may be made...Launceston's 19th century breweries* at 1.15pm, Wednesday 20 February 2008, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library, Civic Square, Launceston.

Book launch: *Beyond awakening: The Aboriginal tribes of North West Tasmania, a history* by Ian McFarlane. 15 Feb, QVMAG Launceston, 5.30pm, launch – Prof Henry Reynolds; 17 Feb, Fullers Bookshop, Hobart, 2.00pm, launch – UTAS Vice-Chancellor Daryl Le Grew; 22 Feb, Cradle Coast Campus (Room B110), Burnie, 7.00pm, Launch – Prof Henry Reynolds. RSVP Fullers Bookshop or UTAS CCC.

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".

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.

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. See the enclosed flyer for details of locations and times.

East Launceston Primary School's 100th anniversary:

14 -19 April 2008: School Open Days 17-19 April; Mothers' 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.

Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the March 2008 LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **1 March 2008**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 March 2008** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.