



# Launceston Historical Society Inc.

## Newsletter No 107

March 2008

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

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

### March Lecture

#### 20<sup>th</sup> *The Examiner*-John West Memorial Lecture

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

**Speaker: Professor Henry Reynolds**

**Subject: What now for the Black-Arm band?  
Aboriginal history after the apology**

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. Professor Reynolds presented the inaugural *The Examiner*-John West Lecture in April 1989 when he addressed the question of "Tasmania's forgotten treaty" with the original Aboriginal population.

#### **Membership Renewals and April Symposium**

The blue insert enclosed with this newsletter has a membership renewal form for those who have not paid previously, and a registration form for the April Symposium. The annual subscriptions for the Launceston Historical Society were due on 31 January 2008.

Complete the bottom section if you wish to attend the Symposium. The cost is \$22.00 for members and \$25.00 for non-members. Morning tea and lunch are included. Please add your email address to the form. Post to the Treasurer, LHS PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 by Monday **14 April 2008**.

#### **Annual General Meeting**

The 2008 AGM will be held from 12.00 to 12.45pm at the Annual Symposium on Saturday 19 April at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk. (See separate green insert for notice of meeting). Nominations are sought to fill all eleven positions on the Executive: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and seven committee members. Nominations should reach the Executive on or before Wednesday **9 April 2008**.

## LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President	Marita Bardenhagen	6334 4490
Vice-President	Jenny Gill	6331 1150
Minute Secretary	Ross Smith	6323 3726
Correspondence Secretary	Rosalie Kelly	6340 2965
Treasurer	Carol Fuller	6331 1558
Newsletter Editor	Marion Sargent	6331 4890
Speaker coordinator	Nic Haygarth	6398 1334

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)

## April

### Annual Symposium

**Saturday 19 April, 9.00am – 3.00pm**, in the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

### Industrial Heritage in Northern Tasmania

9.00 – 9.30am: Registration

9.30 – 10.30am: Keynote speaker, **Professor Miles Lewis**, University of Melbourne:  
“The development of mills and factories, industrial framing, the sawtooth roof and barrup trusses”.

10.30 – 11.00am: Morning tea

11.00 – 11.30am: **Linda Clark**, Senior Objects Conservator, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery:  
“The Chinese in North-East Tasmania”.

11.30am – 12.00: **Denise Gaughwin**, Manager, Cultural Heritage, Forest Practises Authority:  
“In the back blocks? Historical sites in Tasmania’s wood production forests”.

12.00 – 12.45pm: Annual General Meeting

12.45 – 1.30pm: Lunch

1.30 – 2.15pm: Keynote speaker, **Dr Charles Fahey**, Senior Lecturer, La Trobe University, Bendigo Campus, (inaugural President of LHS): “Land of the black stump – writing the history of rural Australia”.

2.15 – 2.45pm: **Ken Hose**, Civil Engineer: “Launceston water and sewerage schemes”.

Registration is essential for catering purposes and a registration form is included with this newsletter. The registration fee for the Symposium is \$22.00 for LHS members and \$25.00 for non-members. Morning tea and lunch are included. **Registrations close Monday 14 April 2008.**

## Excursions for 2008

Due to the popularity of the excursions to Moorina and Waratah, the LHS Committee has proposed three more trips for 2008. These are day outings to the Marakoopa Cave near Mole Creek and to the Trail of the Tin Dragon at Derby; and a long-weekend tour in November to VDL Co establishments in the Far North West. Please complete the form below to express your interest in the day trips. See the next page for details of the VDL trip. Definite bookings are required for the VDL excursion by **31 March 2008**.

### The Captive Singer Uncorked

Hobart romance writer Marie Bjelke Petersen wanted her tee-totalling tear-jerker *The Captive Singer*, set around Marakoopa Cave near Mole Creek, to follow her novel *Jewelled Nights* (shot on the Savage River in 1925) onto the silver screen. Had it done so, 'cave singing'—still practised today—might have become a Tasmanian export. The *Captive Singer's* pivotal scene recalls the habit of then Marakoopa owners, the Byard family, of singing hymns to demonstrate the massive cave's acoustic properties. Associated attractions of early 20<sup>th</sup> century cave tourism, the nearby Alum Cliffs and Mrs How's Boarding House (now the Mole Creek Guest House and Laurel Berry Restaurant), also feature in the book. Mole Creek was then a 'dry' town, a land title covenant preventing the Mole Creek Hotel from gaining a liquor licence. Things have changed.

This day tour will retrace the footsteps of Iris Dearn and the tragic alcoholic Justin Rees in Marakoopa Cave. Features such as the Cathedral or Great Hall, the Railway Tunnel and the glow-worm chamber will be visited. It is planned that Marakoopa's long tradition of vocal performance will be revived for the occasion (hopefully not by party members). Visits to the dramatic Mersey gorge at the Alum Cliffs (drawn by Piguenit in 1877 and later photographed by Styant Browne, Spurling and others), Westmorland Falls and (lunch spot) the licensed Mole Creek Guest House also will feature.

### The Sublime and the Celestial

The Trail of the Tin Dragon Centre at Derby, with its high-tech interpretation of Chinese tin mining, promises an eye-opening visit. Company mining also is well represented in the nearby hills. The Cascade Dam infamously deposited its contents on the town of Derby during the 1929 floods. To prevent the unique Mount Paris Dam higher up the same river from repeating this performance, it was de-watered during the 1990s—but the extraordinary reinforced concrete structure remains. These dams and the Anchor stamper batteries at the base of the Blue Tier give a striking picture of how water was harnessed as part of the process of putting tin ball bearings in machinery and the first fast food in tin cans.

Wild water also held an aesthetic power. Pyengana's historic 'Pub in the Paddock', formerly the St Columba Falls Hotel, is a welcome watering-hole after lunch at Derby. Nearby, 90-metre-high St Columba Falls was the subject of perhaps the greatest Tasmanian photograph in the 'Sublime' style, taken by JW Beattie in 1893. (The 'Sublime' generally depicted a speck of humanity gazing awe-stricken at mighty nature.) Groves of prodigious tree ferns (*Dicksonia Antarctica*) which shade the 10-minute walk to the Falls deserve similar recognition. The 19<sup>th</sup> century Weldborough Hotel, with its wall of historic north-eastern photos, and the Pyengana cheese factory are other potential features of this north-eastern day trip.

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**Expression of interest for the day trips:** (Please tick if interested)

**The Captive Singer Uncorked** (Marakoopa Cave near Mole Creek) .....

**The Sublime and the Celestial** (Trail of the Tin Dragon at Derby) .....

See page 4 for definite expression of interest for the VDL excursion 1-3 November 2008

**3-Day Tour of Van Diemen's Land Company Establishments  
at  
Stanley, Woolnorth and Hampshire/Surrey Hills  
November Long Weekend, 1 – 3 November 2008**

The Van Diemen's Land Company was the first to put down roots in the Burnie and Circular Head Municipalities. The settlement at Stanley was established in 1827 and those at Woolnorth and the Hampshire-Surrey Hills region came soon after.

The Committee of the Launceston Historical Society is organising a visit to all three areas.

During the weekend you will experience long-forgotten aspects of the colonial history of the North West. Learn of discovery, exploration and settlement; of murder and mayhem. Share some of the harsh experiences of the pioneers – both convicts and freemen – their isolation, their fears and frustrations and their contact with the Aborigines at the height of the "Black War".

- Day 1:** Travel to Stanley, the oldest town on the North West Coast. The day will include:
- a. Visit to "Highfield House", (the home of Edward Curr, Chief Agent of the VDL Company)
  - b. Tour of Stanley to include VDL Co Store, Old Wharf, Burial ground (established 1827), Joe Lyons Cottage, the old School, St James' Presbyterian Church (a prefabricated building brought from Scotland in the 1850s), colonial cottages, hotels and churches
  - c. Trip up The Nut depending on time and weather (optional)

Overnight in Stanley

- Day 2:** Tour of Woolnorth in the Far North West. The tour, which takes a full day, includes lunch and visits to:
- a. the Roaring 40s wind farm
  - b. Cape Grim for some spectacular scenery
  - c. Cookhouse cottage (1831) and other early buildings
  - d. Woolnorth Point.

Overnight in Burnie

- Day 3:** Follow in the footsteps of Henry Hellyer by visiting some of the remains (circa 1827-1831) of the VDL Company's sheep farming enterprise in the back country south of Emu Bay and St Valentine's Peak. For part of the day we will travel over roads that are not open to tourists. The trip will include:
- a. The Hampshire Hills settlement
  - b. Weybridge – where Hellyer's track crossed the Wey River
  - c. Chiltern – site of proposed headquarters of the Surrey Hills Establishment
  - d. Remains of shepherds' huts at Howden, Burghley and Burnieside
  - e. Racecourse – the most remote settlement in the Surrey Hills
  - f. Peak Plain (Old Park), discovered by Hellyer and remaining much as it was then.

Return to Launceston arriving about 8.00pm.

**The cost of the VDL trip will be between \$360 and \$375 per person.**

<p align="center">-----✂-----✂-----✂-----</p>	
<p><b>VDL Co establishments excursion, 1-3 November 2008</b></p> <p><b>Name:</b> .....</p> <p><b>Address:</b> .....</p> <p><b>Phone:</b> .....<b>Mobile:</b>.....</p> <p><b>Email:</b> .....</p> <p><b>Accommodation:</b> <b>Single</b>..... <b>Double</b>.....</p>	<p><b>Return by 31 March 2008 to</b></p> <p><b>LHS Inc</b>  <b>PO Box 1296</b>  <b>LAUNCESTON TAS 7250</b></p>

## 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](http://www.elaunceston.com/launcestonhistory).

- Anthony Jessup: Pioneer farmers in North-East (The Heazlewoods Part II) 9 February, 2008, p. 43
- Barbara Valentine: Event displayed skills of young (Juvenile Industrial Exhibition) 16 Feb 2008, p. 42
- Barbara Valentine: Exhibition was not popular as attraction (Juvenile Exhibition) 23 February 2008, p. 38
- Jenny Gill: Dredging a focus from early days (Launceston in the 1870s) 1 March 2008, p. 44

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

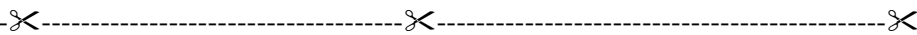
To celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Society in 1988, seven prizes are to be awarded to young people interested in history. These will consist of four prizes for essays discussing the topic “Why study history?” and three for posters depicting the same theme. Students living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

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

All entrants will receive a certificate of participation. Certificates also will be awarded to the schools of participating students. Prize winning entries will be announced at the LHS meeting on Sunday 20 July 2008.

**Guidelines:** Essays should be hand-written or typed on one side only of A4 size paper. Posters may be A4 or A3 size.

Please post entries to the Launceston Historical Society Inc PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 or hand deliver to Marion Sargent at the Launceston Library by **12 June 2008**.



### Entry Form 2008 Launceston Historical Society History Prize “Why study history?”

Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone: .....Email: .....

Age: .....Class/Grade: .....

School/College/University: .....

Are you currently studying history?                      Yes/No

## Advance Notice of Activities

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

**Sunday 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*.

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

## Members' Column

### Notable Books, Notable Launceston

**Rosalie Kelly** is curating an exhibition at the Launceston Reference Library from 11 March to 4 April as the culmination of her State Library of Tasmania Fellowship study into books donated to the Launceston Mechanics' Institute by notable citizens. The books will be on display along with biographical sketches and portraits of the donors.

### Launceston Library Book Fair 29 March 2008

The Historical Society will join other community groups with a booth at the Launceston Library Book Fair. This popular annual second-hand book sale will be held at the Pilgrim Hall on Saturday 29 March 2008 from 9.00am to 2.00pm. The Society will have a booth in the covered glass walkway, next to the hall. The Friends of the Library will be serving tea and scones in the same area. The Society will be selling its Papers and Proceedings as well as books by members. If you have books to sell or would like to help on the stall please contact Marion Sargent at the Launceston Library, phone 6331 4890 after hours or email [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com).

### Catering Coordinator

The Committee thanks Barbara Valentine for organising afternoon teas at our Sunday meetings over the past year. We are seeking another volunteer to do this from May to December.

### 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. Contact Marita Bardenhagen if you require copies to be posted. Postage will be added to the cost.

## Recent Publication by Member

Marilyn Lake and **Henry Reynolds**, *Drawing the Global Colour Line: White Men's Countries and the International Challenge of Racial Equality*. The book will be launched by Emeritus Professor **Michael Roe** at 3.30pm on Thursday 13 March 2008 at the Uni Club, Sandy Bay campus in Hobart. RSVP to Zita on 6226 2772 or email [Zita.Petersen@utas.edu.au](mailto:Zita.Petersen@utas.edu.au). Published by MUP, \$36.95.

## 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 Trust Magazine and *Trust News*
- Royal Historical Society of Victoria, *History News*
- Tasmanian Historical Research Association, *Newsletter*

## Tim Jetson and droving in Western Tasmania

At the 24 February meeting Tim Jetson spoke on droving cattle to the Western Tasmanian mining settlements. He referred to a series of articles entitled "A trip to the West Coast" by Austin Allom published in the *Daily Telegraph* in 1893. Tim is seeking more information about Mr Allom. The *Cyclopedia of Tasmania* provides us with a brief summary of his life up to 1900. Born in New Zealand, he was an assayer and metallurgist, arriving in Launceston in 1889. He visited all the mineral fields in Tasmania, and was the discoverer of the Mount Black Mine in the Rosebery district. He was appointed assayer to the Rosebery Gold Mining Company. In 1902 he married Dora Whittington Cadle at St Stephen's Church, Penguin. In 1903 they were living at 22 Elizabeth Street, Launceston. They might have left Tasmania after this time.

## Other Items and Events of Interest

**At the QVMAG: Reflections on Cataract Gorge** until 13 April 2008 highlights the artistic responses of artists painting in many different styles over a period of nearly 100 years.

**Sport and War: An Australian War Memorial Travelling Exhibition**, 1 March – 25 May 2008. Drawn from the AWM's collections, Sport and War highlights the long association between sport and war in our history; how they have fired our national passions and helped shape the Australian identity.

**Burnie historic heritage:** The Burnie City Council is calling for expressions of interest to undertake a historic heritage survey of the Burnie Municipality. Contact the Council on 6430 5770. See Public Notice in *The Mercury*, Saturday 23 February 2008.

**National Book Council of Tasmania:** speaker for March is LHS member **Paul Richards**, editor of the book *Health, wealth and tribulation: Launceston's Cataract Gorge* at 1.15pm, Wednesday 19 March 2008, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library, Civic Square, Launceston.

**National Trust of Australia (Tasmania):** New website [www.nationaltrusttas.org.au](http://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". A symposium will be held at the Launceston Library on Wednesday 9 April in the Phil Leonard Room.

**UTAS Visiting Public Lecture Tour of Tasmania: Galahs** by Professor Bill Gammage AM. 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?

Lecture tour dates: Burnie **12 March 2008**, 6.30 for 7.00pm UTAS Cradle Coast Campus, Room D203; Launceston **13 March 2008**, 6.00pm UTAS School of Architecture, Inveresk.

### Removing the Boundaries:

The School of English, Journalism and European Languages invites you to the 2008 programme of Removing the Boundaries, an interdisciplinary seminar series. Seminars will take place on Friday afternoons at 4pm in Room 555 of the Humanities building, UTAS Sandy Bay Campus.

**28 March** "Art and Materiality", Prof Jeff Malpas, School of Philosophy, UTAS.

**11 April** "From Monash to Meyer: German Anzacs and the First World War", Dr John F Williams, Hon. Research Assoc, Dept of Germanic Studies, University of Sydney.

**2 May** "The Gendering of Pastoral Care in the High Middle Ages: Case Studies from Cistercian Monasticism", Dr Elizabeth Freeman, School of History and Classics, UTAS.

**16 May** "Perhaps the inner walls are more impenetrable: science and the arts are closer", Prof Pat Quilty, School of Earth Sciences, UTAS.

**30 May** Graduate Research Panel, School of English, Journalism and European Languages, UTAS.

Abstracts will be available on the School of English, Journalism and European Languages website:  
<http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel/rtb.htm>.

Contact Sarah Johnson, Administrative Assistant, School of English, Journalism & European Languages, University of Tasmania, Private Bag 82, Hobart Tasmania 7001  
Phone: 03 6226 2347, Fax: 03 6226 7631.

**George Town and District Historical Society:** 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference, The other half of history: Women in the history of the Tamar Valley. York Cove Centre, Sorell Street, George Town, Sunday 9 November 2008. Contact Peter Cox: 45 Tamar Avenue George Town TAS 7253; phone 6382 2046; mobile 0407 203 610; email [pcox21@tasmail.com](mailto:pcox21@tasmail.com).

### **Mystery photograph**

Can anyone identify when, where and why this photo was taken? The gentleman seated in the middle front with the beard is William Pitt (1809-1891) of 'Longford House'. Does anyone recognise any of the other men or women? Please contact Marion Sargent on 6331 4890 or [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com).



## **Deadlines**

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