

# Launceston Historical Society Inc

## Newsletter No 108

May 2008

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

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

### Welcome to the new Committee members for 2008

The new committee for 2008-09 was elected at the AGM on Saturday 19 April. We welcome two new committee members, Peter Richardson and Andrew Gregg, who will consolidate our connections with the Launceston Library and the University of Tasmania respectively. Marita Bardenhagen was elected as President for another term. The other committee members are: Jenny Gill (Vice President), John Dent (Minute Secretary), Carol Fuller (Treasurer), Anne Bartlett, Jill Cassidy, Nic Haygarth, Rosalie Kelly and Marion Sargent.

### *The Examiner* John West Memorial Lecture

On 14 March Henry Reynolds' powerful lecture "What now for the Black-Arm band? Aboriginal history after the apology" was a resounding success with over 120 people attending. Prof Reynolds provided insights into the way Aboriginal-White relations have developed over the last 20 years. His thought-provoking words compelled the audience to question their own historical values and query why in 2008 we have yet to commemorate the Black Wars as part of our national memorial history.

### Industrial Heritage in Northern Tasmania

The speakers at the Annual Symposium held on 19 April provided the audience with an array of interesting topics beginning with Prof Miles Lewis' lecture on the architecture of industry looking at barns, mills and fences in colonial times. Denise Gaughwin spoke about industrial sites in Tasmania's forests pertaining to agriculture, mining, timber harvesting, survey cairns and Chinese pig ovens. Linda Clark concentrated on the hut sites and artefacts left behind by Chinese tin miners at Greenstone Creek and Sir Ganet Creek in the North East. After the AGM and a delicious lunch, Dr Charles Fahey demonstrated the importance of families in the development of colonial frontiers. Ken Hose concluded the day with the hidden industrial infrastructure of Launceston's water scheme and sewers.



*The speakers from the left are: Linda, Denise, Ken, Miles and Charles.  
(Photo: M Sargent)*

## LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President	Marita Bardenhagen	6334 4490
Vice-President	Jenny Gill	6331 1150
Minute Secretary	John Dent	6331 4099
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.launcestonhistory.org.au](http://www.launcestonhistory.org.au) (A copy of this newsletter can be found on this site)

If there is a **blue spot** on your newsletter, it means that your subscription has not been paid. Please send your remittance as soon as possible to ensure receipt of the next newsletter. An orange membership renewal form is included with this newsletter.

## May Talk

**Sunday 18 May 2008 – 2.30pm** in the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

**Nic Haygarth: the LHS launch of his new book, *The wild ride: Revolutions that shaped Tasmanian black & white wilderness photography*.**

The Industrial Revolution drove Tasmanian black-and-white landscape photographers out of town to meet the wild one. The dry plate freed them technically. The illustrated newspaper and the postcard brought them an audience. The mining boom railed them to the bush, and the internal combustion engine crashed them through it. Hiking took them places no shutter had snapped.

Social developments underpinned this charge: 'muscular' Christianity, higher living standards, 'progressive' nature study and the conservation movement. Wilderness photography raised environmental awareness long before Peter Dombrovskis' "Rock Island Bend" helped free the Franklin River in 1983. New ideas, new gadgetry, fresh vistas and mountain air fuelled the black-and-white brigade's rush for the bush. From the Sublime of John Watt Beattie to the Skyline Tour of Fred Smithies, *The Wild Ride* is their story.

Nic is a professional historian and freelance writer, primarily interested in the Tasmanian highlands. His books include *A view to Cradle: A history of Tasmania's Forth River high country* (1998); and *Baron Bischoff: Philosopher Smith and the birth of Tasmanian mining* (2004), based on a PhD study completed in 2003. Presently Nic is researching the Tarkine, Beaconsfield, black-and-white photography, mining, cave tourism, Rural Youth and Agfest.

On the day, you can purchase a copy of *The Wild Ride* in hardcover for \$59.95.

**Note that the Launceston Historical Society has a new website address:**  
[www.launcestonhistory.org.au](http://www.launcestonhistory.org.au)

## June Talk

**Sunday 15 June 2008 – 2.30pm** in the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

### **Steve Radford: Trading vessels to the Furneaux Group, Bass Strait.**

Steve's talk will include a timeline of shipping companies, both public and private, and their vessels as well as associated infrastructure on the islands. The ships, ports, companies and a few personalities involved with trade between the Furneaux Group and mainland Tasmania will be discussed.

Steve, an enthusiastic amateur historian, lived and worked on Flinders Island for four years and also held a Commercial Pilot Licence, flying above Bass Strait and observing these little ships sometimes "plain sailing" along, other times really were making "heavy weather" of their voyage.

## Advance Notice of Activities

Keep an eye out for more information about our excursions to the Marakoopa Cave near Mole Creek, the Trail of the Tin Dragon at Derby and the Van Diemen's Land Company establishments in the Far North West. The dates for the first two are yet to be confirmed. The VDL trip is to be held on the long weekend of 1-3 November 2008.

## 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 new LHS website [www.launcestonhistory.org.au](http://www.launcestonhistory.org.au).

- Jenny Gill: Visitor has unflattering view of streetscape (Launceston in the 1870 part 2), 8 March 2008, p. 43.
- Ross Smith: Pretty sight as city celebrates centenary in spectacular style, 15 March 2008, p. 43.
- Peter Cox: Tides and timber made Tamar a boatbuilding hub, 22 March 2008, p. 62.
- Anthony Jessup: It was a long road for early settlements in North-East, 29 March 2008, p. 41.
- Lindsay Millar: Pome fruit at home in Tamar Valley, 5 April 2008, p. 40.
- Lindsay Millar: When the valley prospered on apples, 12 April 2008, p. 42.
- Anne Green: Starting line for 'new' technology (Post and Telegraph Office), 19 April 2008, p. 40.

Thank you to all the contributors of this successful series, which has now ended. The stories will be published in a book shortly.

## Characters from the Past

From *The Colonist* 17 January 1891, page 24.

### **Two nights in the opium dens of Launceston**

A seedier side of Launceston's past is documented by a casual visitor who accompanied a friend to three Chinese opium dens within five minutes' walk of the Post Office in 1891. He describes, with politically incorrect detail, how the partakers of the drug removed their shoes and lay upon hard wooden bunks smoking the opium pipes until "All sense of pain, care, anxiety, hope or fear for the future; regret or remorse for the past has for the time being ceased, and such happiness as comes from the utter temporary annihilation of every cause and feeling of pain or regret is mine". The visitor claims not to have smoked a pipe, but the fumes alone gave him such a lazy, dreamy feeling of contentment that he no longer felt the hardness of the "wretched bunk".

From *The Examiner* 1 February 1926.

**An unwelcome visitor**

According to a report from a resident of Mowbray Heights, that suburb has been the scene of activities of late of an undesirable character, known as “Cup-of-tea Annie”. This woman is stated to have pestered several housewives in the one day. One lady, describing the visitation, says, “The woman invites herself in before you know where you are. She simply asks to be obliged with a cup of tea, and takes possession of your house. She refuses to leave until you threaten to take some action. Timid people are not to be frightened by this woman, and should be warned not to let her in if she calls.” The same identity is said to have worried residents of Trevallyn some two years ago.

**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 book vouchers will 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 handwritten 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:** .....**Mobile:** .....

**Email:** .....

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

**School/College/University:** .....

**Are you currently studying history?                      Yes/No**

## Members' Column

### New Members

The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Judith Christie, Andrew Gregg, Mike McCausland, and Dianne, Hannah, Hamish and Alexandra Scetrine.

### Catering Coordinator

Jai Paterson has kindly offered to organise the afternoon teas which are held after the monthly Sunday meetings. This means that we can continue to enjoy a cuppa and a chat after the talks.

### 2005 Papers & Proceedings

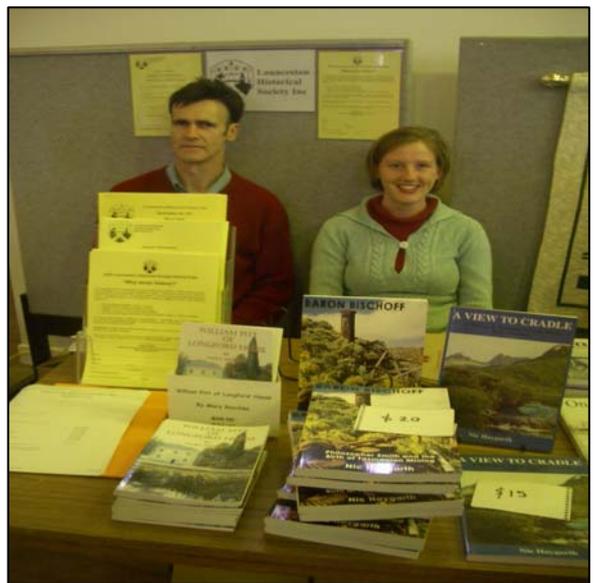
The 2005 LHS *Papers & Proceedings* have been printed, with copies posted to all those who previously paid for them. Extra P&P will be available for \$12.00 at the next meeting. Contact Marita Bardenhagen if you require copies to be posted. Postage will be added to the cost.

### Launceston Library Book Fair

The Launceston Historical Society participated at the Book Fair held on Saturday 29 March in the Pilgrim Hall, Paterson Street. Thank you to Nic Haygarth, Rosalie Kelly, Jill Cassidy, John Dent and Marion Sargent for attending and assisting with the clean-up.

### Uncover Your Past

As part of the Tasmanian Heritage Festival, this workshop held on 12 April, offered practical skills in researching the history of families and properties. LHS President Marita Bardenhagen and member Peter Richardson, representing Heritage Tasmania and the State Library of Tasmania respectively, demonstrated how available resources can be used to uncover the past. Other speakers were Thelma Grunnell of the Tasmanian Family History Society and Rhonda Hamilton of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery.



Nic Haygarth and Rosalie Kelly at the Book Fair.  
(Photo: M Sargent)

## Recent Publications by Members

**Nic Haygarth**, *The Wild Ride: Revolutions that shaped Tasmanian black & white wilderness photography*. This beautifully illustrated book has been published as a result of two State Library of Tasmania fellowships. Nic will talk about the process of writing the book and collecting the magnificent photographs at the May meeting. For a preview see *The Sunday Examiner Magazine*, 6 April 2008.

**Michael Roe**, 'Michael Sharland: for nature and heritage', in *THRA*, Vol 55 No 1, March 2008, page 44.

## 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*

## Other Items and Events of Interest

**At the QVMAG: 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.

**Friends of the Library, Launceston, Coffee Morning:** guest speaker for May is LHS member **Rosalie Kelly** on *Notable Launceston – Notable Books*. With the assistance of a State Library of Tasmania Research Fellowship in 2007, Rosalie has conducted an investigation of the Association Copy Collection at the Launceston Library. These are books that contain historically significant inscriptions, labels, book plates, notes or signatures from notable individuals. In this work Rosalie has uncovered many hidden treasures and fascinating stories, which she will share at this special coffee morning. 10.30am, Wednesday 14 May 2008, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library, Civic Square, Launceston.

**Friends of the Orphan School & St John's Park Precinct:** A new group, to be launched on 20 May 2008, has been formed, under the umbrella of National Trust (Tasmania), to highlight the importance of this nationally significant heritage site. To support the project and receive information on progress throughout the year, become a member for \$10.00. Phone 6272 8737; Membership enquires to Treasurer, PO Box 111, Moonah TAS 7009; or email [friends.orphanschool.stjohnspark@gmail.com](mailto:friends.orphanschool.stjohnspark@gmail.com).

**National Book Council of Tasmania:** speaker for May is LHS member **Anne Green**, author of two titles, *Places of leisure in Launceston* and *Places of managing, mentoring and medicine in Launceston* at 1.15pm, Wednesday 21 May 2008, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library, Civic Square, Launceston.

**Wanted – Australia's missing newspapers:** The State Library of Tasmania is joining with all other national, state and territory libraries in Australia to find, collect and preserve Australia's missing newspapers. The search is on for these valuable pieces of the nation's social history. So if you have a pile of old newspapers under your bed, in your shed or under the floorboards, visit your library or contact the State Library of Tasmania's "newspaper detective" Anna Zylstra on 6233 7457 or email [state.library@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:state.library@education.tas.gov.au). A list of all Australian "wanted" newspaper titles can be found at [www.nla.gov.au/anplan](http://www.nla.gov.au/anplan).

**Friends of the Library, Launceston, Coffee Morning:** Edgar Penzig will be speaking on *Australia's wild colonial days*. Edgar is a historian, journalist, collector, and author of 22 books and seven plays. His work in preserving our country's heritage was recognised in 1990 when he was made a Fellow of the Australian Institute of History and Arts. 10.15am, Wednesday 11 June 2008, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library, Civic Square, Launceston.

**Centre for Tasmanian Historical Studies:** Annual conference, *Tasmanians and War*, Keynote speakers: Dr Michael McKernan and Prof Bruce Scates, Saturday 23 August 2008. UTAS Hobart.

**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).

## Deadlines

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