



Launceston Historical Society Inc

Newsletter No 110

September 2008

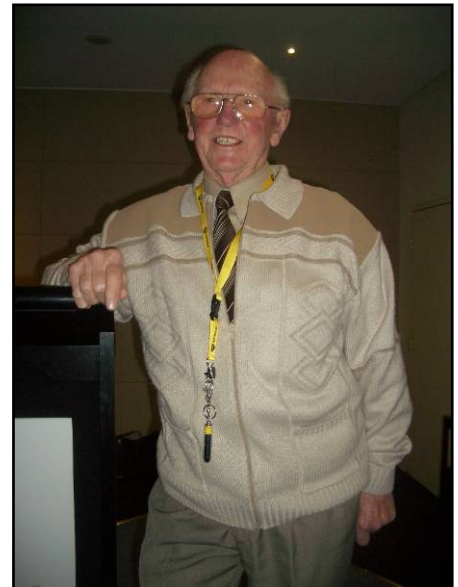
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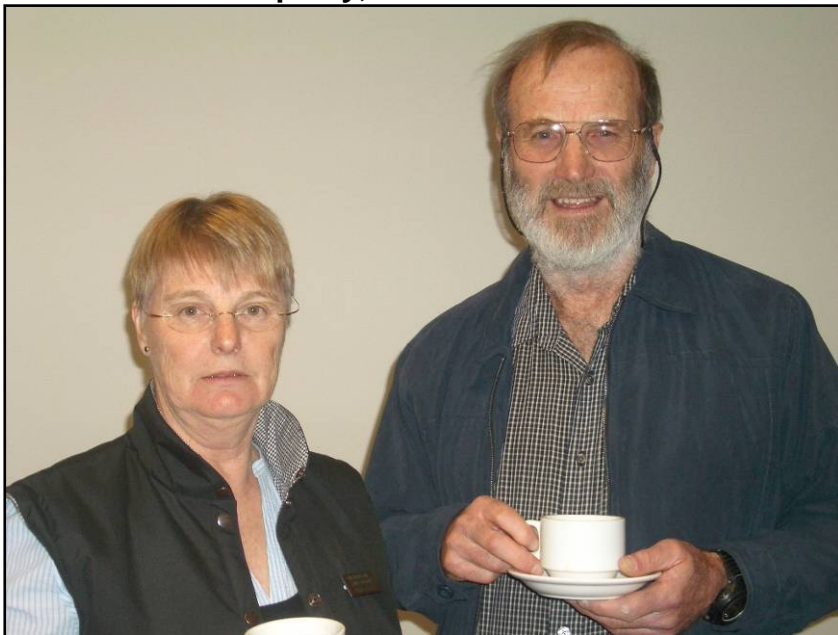
"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

Launceston businesses in 1873

John Shepherd presented a fascinating illustrated talk on 120 lithograph images of Launceston businesses sketched by F W Niven & Co in 1873. Each advertisement from the poster, which hangs in Franklin House, was photographed by John; the locations were researched and photographed as they are today so comparisons can be made. Some buildings have long gone, but others are still recognizable. We might have had a record attendance at this Sunday 20th July meeting, with 100 people in attendance. The article in *The Launceston Advertiser* on 16 July 2008 page 2, "Building on Photographic Memories", helped boost our numbers. John Shepherd is pictured at the right delivering his talk at the QVMAG meeting room.



Scottsdale Municipality, Past and Present



Jeff Jennings, the creative, practical and adventurous retired teacher with a passion for local history entertained the appreciative audience with a film and commentary on the Scottsdale area depicting the past with old photographs and the present of 1993. It is gratifying to have seen that many of the old buildings still stand and remain in use. Today Archivists would shudder to hear that Jeff had allowed his students to scour the Archives Office, *The Examiner* attic and QVMAG for photographs and any other interesting snippets of information about the North-East, and then to copy them. His hands on approach inspired many of his students to maintain an interest in

history. Jeff is pictured here with his sister Carol Fuller, the LHS treasurer. (Photos: Marion 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
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Publications Editor	Peter Richardson	6343 2549
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All correspondence should be sent to: PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 or launcestonhistory@gmail.com

Society Website: www.launcestonhistory.org.au (A copy of this newsletter can be found on this site)

September Talk

Sunday 14 September 2008 – 2.30pm in the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

Keith Sykes: Simon Leslie Brown – Founding Headmaster of Scotch College, Launceston

Keith Sykes was born and educated in Melbourne, Victoria. He attended Carey Baptist Grammar School and, in 1966, graduated from the University of Melbourne with a science degree, majoring in chemistry and mathematics. During a holiday in Tasmania he was invited to join the staff of Scotch College as a physics master. He spent seven years there. In his final year at Scotch, 1974, he edited the school magazine *Caledonian*. During that period Keith developed an interest in the history of the school and undertook research to uncover and preserve some of his findings. In 1975 he was appointed to the staff of Hamilton College, where he was the senior chemistry master for five years. His first vocational dream finally became reality in 1980 when he entered Whitley College, the Baptist College of Victoria. The study of languages, history and theology opened a whole new world of ideas. After completing the Bachelor of Divinity degree, Keith returned to the University of Melbourne where he took degrees in Arts and Education Studies. Keith was ordained as a minister at the Collins Street Baptist Church, Melbourne, on 7 Oct 1984. He was a senior tutor in residence at Whitley College during the eighties, and for twenty years ministered in several Baptist Churches in Victoria. Now in retirement, Keith has returned to Tasmania where he is involved in voluntary community work besides allowing himself the indulgence of historical research, in particular the history of Scotch Oakburn College and Horton College.

The subject of the talk, Simon Leslie Brown, born 17 April 1852, spent only two and a half years teaching in Launceston. But his legacy, argues Keith, far outweighs the contributions of many others who strove far longer in the field of education in our city. After studying Arts and Divinity in his native Scotland, Brown taught in England and Edinburgh before migrating to New Zealand then to New South Wales. He arrived in Launceston in June 1899, where he purchased the City School. He soon established a reputation for excellence in teaching. He built a new school in York Street, which later became the original Scotch College. It was to be a new school for a new nation and a new century. In addition to running both these schools for day pupils and boarders, Brown offered evening classes and a Saturday morning class for ladies only. It was little wonder then that Simon Leslie Brown died on 28 January 1902. His obituary states that he died from overwork, but he had been ill for some years. There is a discrepancy in his age at death. The memorial stone near the entrance to the present day Scotch Oakburn Chapel, Penquite Road, gives his age as 46; his death certificate states that he was born in 1858. His death certificate also reveals the true cause of death. Keith has produced a paper, *Gentle in Manner, Resolute in Action: a brief biography of Simon Leslie Brown*, which is available to read at the Launceston Library.

October Talk

Sunday 19 October 2008 – 2.30pm in the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

Andrew Gregg: Convict Labour at ‘Brickendon’

William Archer, the father of the Archer families who farmed much of the Norfolk Plains, emigrated from Hertford in 1827 to be with his sons. During the period between August 1829 and February 1830, he kept a farm journal whilst living with son William at Brickendon. In doing so, he created what might be the most personal snapshot of convict life during the assignment period of convict labour in colonial Van Diemen’s Land. William records many aspects of convict labour such as task assignment,



victualling, medicine, punishment, and private life. This talk will discuss many aspects of convict life in the assignment era through the lens of William Archer’s diary.

Andrew Gregg holds a first-class honours degree from the University of Tasmania. His doctoral thesis is on the Gentry of the Norfolk Plains, and currently he is ploughing into finishing his biography of Roderic O’Connor. His areas of research include labour and social history, colonialism, and land settlement and usage. His love of history stretches to living in an old(ish) house, collecting old guitars and amplifiers, playing old music, riding old motorcycles, and telling old jokes. Andrew Gregg, pictured here, is a new Launceston Historical Society committee member.

Note that the Launceston Historical Society has a new email address:

launcestonhistory@gmail.com

Advance Notice of Activities

The Sublime and the Celestial North-Eastern day trip on Sunday 12 October 2008. See the separate notice for this excursion to the Derby Tin Centre, the Anchor mine stampers, St Columba Falls and the Mount Paris Dam. All inclusive cost of the trip is \$70 per adult and \$58 per child. The trip departs from the QVMAG car park at 9.00am sharp.

The Captive Singer day trip to Marakooa Cave will be held in November but the date is yet to be confirmed.

Van Diemen’s Land Company establishments in the Far North West. The VDL trip is to be held on the long weekend of 1-3 November 2008. There are still a couple of vacancies. Contact Anne Bartlett if you wish to attend and have not already paid the \$200.00 deposit. Total cost of **\$323.50** includes coach hire, two nights’ bed, breakfast, lunch and dinner at Stanley and Burnie, ‘Woolnorth’ and ‘Highfield’ Tours. Anne’s phone number is 6344 5258.

16 November 2008 Peter Cox, On the trail of William Paterson

April 2009, Symposium, Non-Conformists in Northern Tasmania

Members' Column

Ross and AFL records: Member Ross Smith has written to the AFL disputing three "facts" that have been printed in the annual AFL Record Season Guide. The Examiner (24 July 2008, page 93) published a story and photograph about Ross' battle with the AFL. Ross argues that there was no Champion of the Colony Trophy; that the first All-Australian team was picked in Adelaide in 1953; and that the Melbourne Football Club was formed in May 1859. Good luck Ross!

New Members: The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new member: Bruce Burke.

2006 Papers & Proceedings: The 2006 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.

Fuller Papers: Research on approximately 330 individuals has been completed. There still remain approximately 150 people to be researched as well as buildings, places, some ships, streets, roads and miscellaneous items mentioned in George Fuller's letters. If you can help, please contact Anne Bartlett on 6344 5258 or haambar@gmail.com.

Characters from the Past

Convict Absconders

From the *Hobart Town Gazette*, 23 January 1830, page 19. Government Notice No. 17 from the Colonial Secretary's Office: The ticket of leave held by Thomas Rands, No. 212, per *Baring*, has been forfeited, he having absconded, after the suspension of his ticket, for being drunk in church, New Norfolk, during divine service. By Command of The Lieutenant Governor, J. Burnett.

From the *Hobart Town Gazette*, 30 January 1830, page 26. Police Office, Hobart Town: 342, Thomas Falkner, 5 feet 10½, brown hair, grey eyes, age 30, a cotton weaver, in Jan. 1828, sentence life, per *Woodford* (2), native of Kiderminster, scar inner corner left eye, large scrophula scar, nearly covering the left cheek, very large scar under the chin, large scar of scrophula on right cheek, altogether a very remarkable-looking face. Absconded from public works, Blackman's River, Jan 21, 1830. Reward.

Dianne Cassidy, a staff member at the Launceston Library, has compiled a *List of reported convict absconders from Van Diemen's Land 1830-1834 sourced from the Hobart Town Gazette*. It comprises an alphabetical list of names, convict number, ship, age, place absconded from and the Gazette reference.

Can You Help?

'Woodcot', Longford: Hugh Calveley Cotton, magistrate, lived at 'Woodcot' in 1847 and 1848. The Rev David Boyd of the Longford Grammar School evidently lived at 'Woodcot' from 1850-1854. If anyone knows where this house was situated in Longford, please contact the editor Marion Sargent on marionsargent@bigpond.com. Also, any information on 'Longford House' and Mrs Thomson's Longford House Establishment for Young Ladies would be most welcome.

Mr Saggors of Longford: Mr Saggors is reputed to have travelled to the North-East of Tasmania in 1855. Jeff Jennings is interested to know if anyone has any information on this, apart from the article in the *Cyclopedia of Tasmania*. Please contact the Launceston Historical Society on launcestonhistory@gmail.com.

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*
- Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society, *Newsletter*
- Hobart Town (1804) First Settlers Association Inc, *Newsletter*
- National Trust Magazine and *Trust News*
- Royal Historical Society of Victoria, *History News*
- Tasmanian Historical Research Association, *Newsletter*

Other Items and Events of Interest

The Oral History Association of Australia (Tas) Inc. invites proposals for presentations at the national conference to be held 17–20 September 2009 in Launceston on the theme:

Islands of Memory: Navigating Personal and Public History

Sub-themes include: navigating truth and memory
navigating through generations
navigating new technologies

We encourage proposals from people who have worked with oral history in a wide range of environments such as family history and community projects, museums, heritage agencies, academic institutions, radio and television, law courts and performing arts.

Proposals (maximum 200 words) are invited for individual papers, thematic panels, workshops and performances.

CLOSING DATE FOR PROPOSALS: 31 OCTOBER 2008

Proposals should be sent to Jill Cassidy, President OHAA (Tas) Inc, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, PO Box 403 Launceston Tasmania 7250 or Jill.Cassidy@qvmag.tas.gov.au.

Friends of the Library, Launceston, Coffee Morning: Guest speaker for September is John Shepherd on *Launceston Business in 1873*. For those who missed out on our popular talk in July! Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library, Wednesday 10 September, 10.30 am.

Eastern Shore Historical Societies Network Inc: 5th Annual Bowen Lecture. John Lennox will speak on *Tasmania's Historic Ordnance 1803-1975*. Rosny Barn, Sunday 14 September 2008, 1.00 pm exhibition of military items, 2.00 pm lecture. Gold coin donation. Enquiries Kaye McPherson 6243 8606.

My Story; Our History: An exhibition of research works by West Launceston Primary School children exploring the lives of 50 Australians from diverse backgrounds who share their personal stories. Emotive themes conveyed through artwork, handmade books, personal story writing and reflection. Launceston Reference Library, Civic Square, Launceston, 28 August to 17 September 2008.

National Book Council of Tasmania: the speaker for September is Geoff Law author of *The river runs free: exploring and defending Tasmania's wilderness*. Starts 1.15pm, Wednesday 17 September 2008, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library, Civic Square, Launceston.

Doors Open: The Rotary Club of Launceston Doors Open Day, Sunday 21 September 2008. Satisfy your curiosity and look inside 21 buildings. \$10 for an all buildings ticket or \$5.00 for two buildings. Enquiries: phone Russell on 0419 360 403.

Tasmanian Historical Research Association: Conference 'Debauch and Outrage'? *Norfolk Islanders in Van Diemen's Land*, Town Hall, Hobart, 4 October 2008, 9.30 am – 4.30 pm. \$45.00 per includes an 1808 lunch. Contact THRA PO Box 441 Sandy Bay TAS 7006 by 30 September.

Australian Mining History Association: 14th Annual Conference at the Silver Hills Motel, Queenstown, Tasmania. 4-10 October 2008. Phone Mel Davies (08) 6488 2939. Registration form is available at <http://amha.asn.au/Q'TownRegistrform.pdf>. Email: mel.davies@uwa.edu.au.

Heraldry Australia Inc: David Vines White, Somerset Herald, College of Arms, London, will deliver a lecture *Of Sheep and Emus, Lions and Kangaroos – 19th and Early 20th Century Grants of Arms to Australians* on Monday 3 November 2008, 6.00pm at The School of Architecture & Design Lecture Theatre, University of Tasmania, Inveresk Campus, Launceston. Entry is by gold coin donation. RSVP by Friday 31 October 2008. For bookings and inquiries contact the Hon. Secretary, Stephen Szabo by telephone on 0431 701 055, by post at Heraldry Australia, PO Box 107, LAWSON NSW 2783, or by email secretary@heraldryaustralia.org.

George Town and District Historical Society: 6th 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.

International Mining History Congress: The 8th Congress will be held at the Penventon Park Hotel, Redruth, Cornwall, UK from 12-15 June 2009. See www.huss.ex.ac.uk/history/imhc.

Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women: Established in 2005 by the Tasmanian Government to honour Tasmanian women who have made an outstanding contribution to the state. Women Tasmania is seeking nominations to the Honour Roll for 2009. Suggestions can be made through the website: http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/cdd/women/leadership/tasmanian_honour_roll_of_women. For further information phone 1800 001 377 or email wt.admin@dpac.tas.gov.au.

Ex Plus Ultra is an exciting, new, international post-graduate journal of colonial and imperial history and postcolonial theory. For the first edition of the journal we are inviting creative, scholarly papers of up to 6000 words concerned with all areas of colonial and postcolonial historical studies. The deadline for submission of papers is 31 October 2008. The first edition will be published online in April 2009. Ex Plus Ultra is currently hosted by the Universities of Sydney, Leeds and Bristol. For any enquiries about the journal or call for papers, the editors can be contacted via email: explusultra@usyd.edu.au.

The Companion to Tasmanian History is now online. *The Companion to Tasmanian History* is a comprehensive website providing information about every important aspect of Tasmania's history, covering all periods and all places, published by the Centre for Tasmanian Historical Studies, School of History and Classics, University of Tasmania. The website is enhanced by the inclusion of images. Have a look at: http://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/index.htm.

Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the 9 September 2008 LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **1 September 2008**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 Nov 2008** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.