



Launceston Historical Society Inc

Newsletter No 112

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

Convict Labour at 'Brickendon', Longford

Andrew Gregg's well-attended talk focused on William Archer Senior's farm diary dated from 11 August 1829 to 24 February 1830. There were 20 to 30 convicts at 'Brickendon' at any given time, more during the harvest. The youngest was John Watt and the oldest, William Morgan, with the average age being 23. The usual working week was from sunrise to sunset Monday to Friday and a half day on Saturday. But Archer sometimes managed to persuade his servants to work beyond sunset and even on Sundays. He did this by using indulgences such as wine and increased rations. His paternalistic attitude – clearly reflected in his diary – is evidenced by his administration of medicines and punishment.



Pat Hume and Andrew Gregg. Photo: M Sargent



John Dent, Peter Cox and Jill Cassidy. Photo: M Sargent

In search of William Paterson

Peter Cox captivated his audience with the early exploits of William Paterson, famous in Tasmania as the Lieutenant-Governor of the settlement at Port Dalrymple. Paterson, born in 1755 in Kinnettles, Scotland, was a gardener at the Physic garden in London. He later sailed to Cape Town in search of exotic plants for Lady Strathmore (Mary Bowes-Lyon). He explored much of Southern Africa, collected botanic specimens, drank too much, landed in debt, joined the British Army, and married Elizabeth. Peter had enough time only to whet our appetite on the adventures of this most interesting character. There must be another lecture on Paterson, divulging the next phase of his career before he came to Van Diemen's Land.

LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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)

Christmas at 'Egremont'

Sunday 21 December 2008 – 2.30pm at 'Egremont', 20 Welman Street, Launceston

Once again Marita Bardenhagen and Alex Thomson invite all Launceston Historical Society members to 'Egremont' for our Christmas function. Please bring a plate for afternoon tea. Since last year, the house has been refurbished. See how it has been transformed into a beautiful Bed & Breakfast establishment. <http://www.egremonttas.com/Site/Home.html>. Please RSVP to Marita on 6334 4490, mbardenh@bigpond.net.au or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.

Advance Notice of Activities

The Captive Singer day trip to Marakoopa Cave will be held in 2009. Watch out for further information in future newsletters.

Sunday 15 February 2009: Peter Mercer, Hedgerows.

Friday 13 March 2009: *The Examiner*-John West lecture, UTAS, Newnham. Phillip Adams AO FRSA has been invited to present next year's lecture. He is a well-known and sometimes controversial social commentator, broadcaster, author, speaker and film-maker.

Saturday 18 April 2009, Annual Symposium: *Non-Conformists in Northern Tasmania* and the Annual General Meeting. Speakers to be advised.

Sunday 17 May 2009: Heritage Month with the theme of Water.

Sunday 21 June 2009: Andrew Finney, Funeral Homes.

Sunday 19 July 2009

Sunday 23 August 2009

Sunday 27 September 2009

Sunday 18 October 2009

Sunday 15 November 2009

Presentation of History Prizes

On Friday 7 November, at 'Egremont', an excited and proud group of students, parents and teachers, attended the presentation of prizes to the 17 winners of the Launceston Historical Society story, essay and poster competition. Professor Henry Reynolds and President Dr Marita Bardenhagen officiated at the ceremony. A total prize pool of \$920.00 was distributed in the form of book vouchers from various Launceston bookshops. A delicious afternoon tea was enjoyed by all; thanks to Jenny Gill and Carol Fuller who had made dozens of scones. Due to its success, the competition will become an annual event.



Jillian Koshin with Sarah Clarkson, 1st grade 11-12 essay.



Prof. Henry Reynolds, Emily Nason (1st) and Leah Turnbull (2nd) primary poster.



Prof. Reynolds with winners in the primary story section, Chloe Perry (3rd), Sarah Merrington (1st), Tim Broxton (equal 1st) and Jhdara Jones (2nd).

Gems from 'Why Study History?' essays:

"It would be cool if we could see what Launceston looked like back then." Sarah Reed.

"It's kind of like a memory that we keep for all people to think about and see the changes over time."
Tim Broxton



Some of the colourful posters on display at 'Egremont'.

Winners of the Launceston Historical Society History Prize 2008

Primary Story

Equal First: Tim Broxton and Sarah Merrington, West Launceston Primary School.
Second: Jhdara Jones, West Launceston Primary School.
Third: Chloe Perry, West Launceston Primary School.
Highly Commended: Beau Bellinger, Sarah Reed and Matthew Trudgeon, Norwood Primary School.

Primary Poster

First: Emily Nason, West Launceston Primary School.
Second: Leah Turnbull, West Launceston Primary School.
Third: Lisa Wells, West Launceston Primary School.
Highly Commended: Matthew Browne and Maree Woolnough, West Launceston Primary School.

Grade 7-10 Essay

First: Deborah Kroeze, John Calvin School.

Grade 7-10 Poster

First: Nigel Thompson, John Calvin School.
Second: Emily Wielstra, John Calvin School.

Grade 11-12 Essay

First: Sarah Clarkson, Launceston College.

President's Prize

Robyn Mulder, John Calvin School.

The Van Diemen's Land Company Establishments in the Far North West

Long weekend trip 1-3 November 2008

A busload of our enthusiastic members, led by Anne Bartlett, headed off to the North West on Saturday, 1st November. We had morning tea at the attractive Hiscutt Park, at Penguin, with the Dutch windmill as a focal point. After a picnic lunch in the grounds of 'Highfield House' at Stanley, we toured the house, chapel, outbuildings and gardens of the VDL headquarters. A bus tour of Stanley followed, with some free time to soak in the historic atmosphere of this friendly village.





The barn at 'Highfield'.



Alison Green waiting for the bus at Stanley.

The following day we headed to Woolnorth, where we were blown away viewing the aptly located wind farm and by the spectacular scenery of the coastline. Cape Grim; Woolnorth Point; the oldest building in the North West; the shearing sheds; and BBQ lunch at the Governor's house; all made this a day to remember.



Bracing against the wind at Cape Grim.



Windmills at Woolnorth.



The cook's house – 1831.



Rick Prevost and bus driver Stan in the woolshed.

On Monday Brian Rollins from the Burnie Historical Society guided us into the former VDL Company's sheep grazing lands in the Surrey and Hampshire Hills. The remains of early settlements – reserved for posterity – can be found throughout the vast forestry plantations. We visited: Weybridge, where Henry Hellyer's track crossed the Wey River; Chiltern, the site of the proposed headquarters of the Surrey Hills settlement; remains of shepherds' huts at Howden, Burghley and Burnieside; Racecourse, the most remote settlement in the Surrey Hills; and Peak Plain. St Valentine's Peak made a fitting backdrop for a group photograph. We thank Brian for spending the day with us, and sharing his extensive knowledge of the area's history. Report and photographs by Marion Sargent.



Above and below are hut sites in the Hampshire Hills.



Some of the group at St Valentine's Peak.



Above: Dickenson's Hole.
Left: Prue McCausland and The Nut.

Members' Column

New Members: The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Pauline Cartwright, Linda Clark, Sarah Clarkson and John Dean.

Fuller Papers: Research is continuing regarding the people, buildings, places, ships, streets, roads and miscellaneous items mentioned in George Fuller's letters on the history of Launceston in the 1840s. If you can help, please contact Anne Bartlett on 6344 5258 or haambar@gmail.com.

Jenny Gill's retirement: Earlier this year our Vice President retired from her position as an archivist at the Launceston Church Grammar School. Jenny had spent nearly 20 years delving into and organising the school's archives. An interesting article appeared in the *News from Grammar*, Issue 50, June 2008.

Recent Publications by Members

Kim Simpson, 'Launceston's Old Umbrella Shop', in *Trust News Australia*, November 2008, page 24. Kim, a Heritage Research Officer at Heritage Tasmania, catalogued the historic relics in this National Trust shop. His article provides the reader with a glimpse into one of the most significant and intact early 20th century shop interiors at 60 George Street, Launceston.

Mary MacRae and Mary Dadson, *Pateena Road: Families and Farms of the Pateena District*. This small book presents the life and times of Pateena Road, Longford, using the journals and oral histories of the early settlers in the district. Enquires and orders may be addressed to LHS member Mary MacRae, 10 Latour Street, Longford, TAS 7301.

Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery and Quintus Publishing, *Friendly Mission: The Tasmanian Journals and Papers of George Augustus Robinson 1829-1834*. This epic work, edited by NJB Plomley, has been reprinted. The launch of the 2008 edition was followed with a talk by LHS member Professor Henry Reynolds entitled "Was George Augustus Robinson successful?"

Can You Help?

Friends of Carr Villa. Those interested in becoming involved in the formation of a new group to help maintain the older sections of the Carr Villa Memorial Park in Launceston, please contact LHS member Angela Prosser-Green on 6344 5856.

Shell picture frame. We have received a letter regarding the origins of a shell picture frame that has been handed down through the family of Thomas Richard Furlong and his daughter Emma Furlong, born 24 April 1839. The portrait of a woman is in the frame, which measures 21 x 26 inches and is 4 inches deep. If anyone can help please contact the Secretary Rosalie Kelly or email the Society at 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* (email)
- Devonport Maritime Museum and Historical Society, *Time & Tide*
- Federation of Australian Historical Societies Inc., *FAHS Newsletter* (email)
- 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

Roving Curator Program. A Workshop Calendar for 2008-2010 can be obtained by contacting Arts Tasmania on (03) 6233 7308 or the Roving Curators Elizabeth Adkins on 0400 677 982 or LHS member Jai Paterson on 0417 915 462. Briefly, workshops on offer are:

Caring for our Collections, 28 February 2009, at the May Shaw Health Centre, Swansea, and 28 March 2009, at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart;

Museum Records and Cataloguing 101, 18 April 2009, the Old Courthouse, Oatlands, 27 June 2009 TMAG, Hobart and 25 July 2009, Civic Centre, Burnie.

John Shepherd's photographic series. As a direct result of the talk John Shepherd gave to the Society in July on "Launceston Businesses in 1873", *The Launceston Times*, a free weekly newspaper published by *The Examiner*, is featuring a series called "Back to the Future" which is based on the 100 lithographs on the advertising poster at Franklin House, Youngtown. The series, which started on 14 October 2008, compares the 1873 images with later photographs and as it is today. Not to be missed!

The 'Brickendon' Diary. For those who attended Andrew Gregg's talk on "Convict Labour at 'Brickendon', Longford", this find in the Launceston Library will be interesting. Appendix B in *The End Crowns the Labour: Interpretation at Brickendon Estate, Tasmania*, by Marion Stell, includes some sample pages from William Archer's diary. These have been simplified to facilitate the interpretation of the heritage listed property for tourists. The book is located at LSC.Q 994.621 STE.

The Alexander Tennis Racquet display stand will be the first item to be featured in a new series of the QVMAG Friends' Selection exhibitions in the foyer at Inveresk. The Alexander Patent Racket Company factory was situated in Wentworth Street, Launceston. The first Australian company to concentrate on the manufacture of tennis racquets, it patented and produced the first laminated tennis racquet.

The Inclusive Museum. The second international conference on *The Inclusive Museum* will be a forum where museum practitioners, researchers, thinkers and teachers are free to engage in discussion on the historic character and future shape of the museum. The key question of the Conference is *How can the institution of the museum become more inclusive?* To be held at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, 8-11 July 2009. For more information see the website: <http://www.Museum-Conference.com>.

The Talk About Town: Urban Lives and Oral Sources in 20th Century Australia invites researchers and professionals working on life in Australian cities since 1900 to come together to reflect on their projects. To be held on 27-28 August 2009 at the State Library of Victoria and Melbourne University. Persons wishing to present papers at the conference should send 200 word abstracts (for a 20 minute presentation) to Kerrie Alexander at kerrie.alexander@arts.monash.edu.au by 31 December 2008. For enquires email talkabouttown@gmail.com or see website <http://arts.monash.edu.au/public-history-institute/conferences/2009-talkabout/index.php>.

Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the 10 February 2009 LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **1 February 2009**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 Feb 2009** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.