



Launceston Historical Society Inc

Newsletter No 113

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

Christmas at 'Egremont'

Once again members of the Launceston Historical Society assembled for an enjoyable Christmas function at the now renovated historic home of 'Egremont'. The event was held on Sunday 21 December 2008. A glass of champagne, a delicious afternoon tea and a tour of the home topped a busy and fulfilling year of historic gatherings.

Thank you to Marita Bardenhagen and Alex Thomson for hosting the function.

We look forward to another 12 months of exciting activities in 2009 – our 21st year.



Gus Green, Rosalie Kelly, Janet Headlam, Sarah Clarkson and Joan Jacks enjoying a chat over a cup of tea.



Sarah Clarkson and Rosalie Kelly.



'Egremont', 20 Welman Street, Launceston.

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 in colour)

February Talk

Sunday 15 February 2009 – 2.30pm in the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

Peter Mercer: Enclosing Rural Tasmania – hedgerows and stone fences, an often neglected part of our heritage.

Peter Mercer, OAM, AMAA, is the founder and creator of the Burnie Pioneer Village Museum (1942-75), Senior Curator of History at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (1976-99), Honorary Life Member of the National Trust (Tasmania), past president and vice-president of the Tasmanian Branch of Museums Australia. He is the author of several books and more than 300 papers and articles on Tasmanian history, built heritage and social history.

Peter's illustrated talk will explore the origins and evolution of the enclosed field system in England, the economic conditions that forced change and how the English hedgerow system was adopted in the earlier settled regions of Australia, particularly Tasmania, making wide use of the English species of thornbush.

Membership Renewals

The annual subscriptions for the Launceston Historical Society Inc were due on 31 January 2009. Please complete the enclosed form and return to the treasurer, Carol Fuller, at the next meeting or post to the Treasurer, Launceston Historical Society, PO Box 1296, LAUNCESTON, TAS 7250

March Lecture

21st *The Examiner*-John West Memorial Lecture

Friday 13 March 2009 – 8.00pm in the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania, Launceston.

Speaker: Phillip Adams

The End of the World? Or The Birth of a Better One? The financial crisis, climate change and political conflicts have created a perfect storm of problems... But it also presents our greatest opportunity to begin anew...

Phillip Adams AO FAHA FRSA has been invited to present this year's lecture. He is a well-known and sometimes controversial social commentator, columnist, broadcaster, author, speaker and film-maker.

Australia's longest-running and most widely published columnist, Adams' numerous awards include two Orders of Australia, four Honorary Doctorates and a Walkley. He was Australian Humanist of the Year (1987) and Republican of the Year (2005). In 1998, the National Trust elected him as one of Australia's 100 Living National Treasures. In 2008 Robert Manne described him as the 'most remarkable broadcaster in the history of this country'.

Like John West he is a fierce critic of what he perceives to be the social evils of his time and he takes every opportunity to propose remedies. West made effective use of the only mass medium of his time. Phillip Adams employs the wide range of today's mass media.

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.

Saturday 18 April 2009, Annual Symposium: *Non-Conformists in Northern Tasmania* and the **Annual General Meeting.** Details of the Symposium will be in the next Newsletter. Speakers will explore the social, economic and architectural contributions made by Quakers, Baptists, Brethren, Wesleyan Methodists and other non-conformists in northern Tasmania in the nineteenth century.

Sunday 17 May 2009: Heather Felton, *Key moments in our social history – water resources and electricity in northern Tasmania.* The theme for the National Trust Heritage Festival 2009 is "Water: Our Island's Life Force".

Sunday 21 June 2009: John Dent, *The Missing Link – the first street plan of Launceston?*

Sunday 19 July 2009: Brian Rollins, *The original Bass Highway c1827-28.*

Sunday 23 August 2009: Elspeth Wishart and Linda Clark, *Convict clothes.*

Sunday 27 September 2009: Speaker to be confirmed.

Sunday 18 October 2009: Julianne Richards, *The diary of a World War One nurse.*

Sunday 15 November 2009: Speaker to be confirmed.

Members' Column

Nic Haygarth: Was guest speaker at the annual Gustav Weindorfer Memorial Service at Waldheim, Cradle Valley, on 1 January 2009. It was almost 100 years to the day since Weindorfer's first visit to the Cradle Mountain area with fellow botanist Charlie Sutton. The event celebrates Gustav and Kate Weindorfer's efforts to protect Cradle Mountain and promote conservation and nature study. Snow and sleet, appropriately, were the order of the day. Ranger Eddie Firth drove Kentish mayor Don Thwaites and Carol Thwaites to the site in an ancient Chevrolet which Weindorfer's friend Ronnie Smith formerly drove to Cradle Valley. Some of the 100 or so assembled dressed in period costume.

Thomas Gunn: Organised the Low Head Conference which was held on 31 January. Tom Gunn and Gus Green, both LHS members, presented papers. Tom's talk was on the Castle at Low Head which was built by his grandfather Fred Gunn. Gus spoke on the telegraph cables and the men who laid them.

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.

Recent Publications by Members

Nic Haygarth has two new publications:

1. *A Peopled Frontier: The European Heritage of the Tarkine Area*
2. *Joe Fagan's Waratah: Celebrating the Life of a Great West Coaster*

Stefan Petrow, "Military Outrage": the riot of the 96th Regiment in Launceston in 1845', in *THRA Papers and Proceedings*, Vol 55, No 3, December 2008, page 183.

Stefan Petrow and Alison Alexander, *Growing with strength: a history of the Hobart City Council 1846-2000*, Hobart City Council, Hobart, 2008, index, endnotes, 607pp., hardback \$70.00.

Characters from the Past

From *The Daily Telegraph*, 17 August 1925, page 5.

Wealthy Old Patches

The case of the aged Syrian woman Mary Assid is related in detail in this newspaper report. After eking out a living by hawking in the streets of Launceston, she became an inmate of the Invalid Depot in New Town, Hobart. The woman was always an object of interest because of her tattered and patchwork garments. She was looked upon with a certain pity, folk believing her to be poor and friendless. But upon her admission to the Hobart home she was found to be a comparatively rich woman. When she was admitted one of the nurses was desirous of the speedy disposal of the old woman's tattered garments. Fortunately this was not done, because on a search of her clothing £56 4s 3d – all in small coins – was found concealed in a pocket.

"Money – don't talk to me about money!" exclaimed the old woman. "I don't want to hear about money" is the attitude she adopted when questioned in regard to her unsuspected hoard. Apart from the money found in her pocket, Mr C F Seager, the Administrator of Charitable Grants, discovered that Mary Assid had a Savings Bank account which had not been touched for ten years. With two fixed deposits, the interest which had accumulated, and the cash in hand, the old lady had a total of £4195 14s 9d. She was happy in the home, and it was taken for granted that while she remained there she would be a paying guest. It appeared that she had no relatives in Australia, but it was believed that she had two daughters in Syria.

Can You Help?



Campbell's Pottery: Lorraine Campbell wishes to contact descendants of John and Mary Jane (née Jory) Campbell of Campbell's Pottery, Launceston. Wilfred Arthur Campbell, their fourth son and Lorraine's grandfather, was born in Launceston in September 1898. Pictured on the left is Mary's father, William Brown Jory. His portrait and biographical sketch is in the Launceston Family Album at www.launcestonfamilyalbum.org.au Lorraine can be contacted at 1 Grouville Drive, Woodthorpe, Nottingham, NG5 4NN, UK, or ray.robinson@ntlworld.com.

Hookey Family: Meredith Downes is seeking information about the Hookey family who lived in Launceston in the 1840s and later in Longford (1850s to 1870s). Henry Jacob Hookey, solicitor 1804-1879 (native of London), his wife Elizabeth (née Jones) 1814-1887, and their children, Vernon William Bligh (father of Mabel Hookey, the artist), Darnley Charles, Emily Blanch and Fanny Madeline. Contact the secretary or email launcestonhistory@gmail.com if you can help.

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*
- Heritage Tasmania, *Heritage-News* (email)
- 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

Friends of the Library, Launceston, Coffee Morning: Guest speaker for February is Geoff Woods OAM, now retired and writing the history of a horse, *Malua – Deloraine bred and Australia's most versatile racehorse ever*, its times and people. Wednesday, 11 February 2009, 10.15am, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library, Civic Square, Launceston.

Journeys to Gallipoli and Beyond: An evening with Professor Bruce Scates, Saturday 14 February 2009, 5.30-8.00pm, Domain Athletics Centre, Queens Domain, Hobart. Organised by the Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue. \$20.00 per head for FOSMA members, \$25.00 others. Must book to attend – Contact Andrea Gerrard on 6228 0543 by 12 February.

West Tamar Historical Society Inc: Industrial history site tour of Beaconsfield by Richard Hooper. Sunday 15 February 2009, 10.00am-3.00pm. Meet in the car park of the Beaconsfield Gold & Heritage Centre in Weld Street. No RSVP required. Phone John Dent 6331 4099 (work) or 0408 133 656 or email john.dent@pda.com.au for more details. A flyer was included in the LHS December Newsletter. Unfortunately, this event conflicts with our own Sunday meeting.

National Book Council of Tasmania: The guest speaker for February is Heather Felton, author of *Ticklebelly tales and other stories from the people of the Hydro*. Wednesday, 18 February 2009,

1.15pm, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library, Civic Square, Launceston. Our president Marita Bardenhagen is one of the people featured in this interesting and informative book.

Archaeological data management and GIS symposium: Archaeologists, heritage/land managers, planners and others will meet in an informal discussion on the management of the wealth of historic archaeological resources in Tasmania. Tuesday 3 March 2009, 1.00-5.00pm, Glenorchy Civic Centre, Cooper Street, Glenorchy. This is a free event, but please RSVP to Brad Williams by 24 February, bwilliams@gcc.tas.gov.au.

National Book Council of Tasmania: The guest speaker for March is former governor William Cox, author of *A miscellany of Tasmania: Selected vice-regal speeches*. Wednesday, 18 March 2009, 1.15pm, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library, Civic Square, Launceston.

Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women: Nomination forms are available on the Women Tasmania website at www.women.tas.gov.au or by phone on 1800 001 377. Closes on 20 March 2009.

Feminine Pursuits: An exhibition of photographs taken by members of the Northern Tasmanian Camera Club between 1898 and 1926 is now on display on the second floor of the Launceston Library. LHS member and librarian Catherine Pearce selected the photographs of women participating in recreational activities. See *The Examiner* 21 Jan 2009 page 8.

Uncover Your Past: Researching the history of your family and property is like unravelling a mystery: it can be exciting, fascinating and rewarding. Pick up some tips from the experts from Heritage Tasmania, the Devonport Library and the Tasmanian Family History Society's Devonport Branch. Afternoon tea will be provided. This is a free event organised by Heritage Tasmania as part of the Tasmania's Discoveries Program run by the Department of Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts. Saturday, 28 February 2009, 2.00-4.00pm, Devonport Convention Centre. Bookings are essential and can be made by contacting Heritage Tasmania on 6336 5249 or 1300 850 332.

Islands of Memory: Navigating Personal and Public History

The 4-day national Oral History conference will be held at the Tram Shed, Launceston, 17-20 September 2009. There will be 55 speakers from 5 continents over 4 days. All the conference details are available at www.qvmag.tas.gov.au/oralhistoryconference

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.

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. 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 March 2009 LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **1 March 2009**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 March 2009** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.