



Launceston Historical Society Inc

Newsletter No 114

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

Hedgerows and Stone Fences

On 15 February Peter Mercer, assisted by his wife Libby, gave an interesting talk on the history of enclosures and fences in England and Tasmania. His illustrated talk showed some of the State's best examples of hawthorn hedges at Relbia and Chudleigh. Peter stressed the need to protect them for the future and to make sure that they remain as part of the rural landscape for generations to come. As many hedgerows are under threat in northern Tasmania, this lecture was both informative and timely. *The Examiner* published a story and photograph of the talk on 16 February 2009, page 8.



Libby and Peter Mercer. Photo: M Sargent

Membership Renewals

The annual subscriptions for the Launceston Historical Society were due on 31 January 2009. Thank you to those who have paid for another year of membership. A pink renewal form was enclosed with the last newsletter. A form is also available on our website www.launcestonhistory.org.au.

April Symposium

A registration form is enclosed for the Annual Symposium to be held on 18 April 2009. The cost is \$25.00 for members and \$30.00 for non-members. Morning tea and lunch are included. Registrations close on Thursday **9 April 2009**. The topic this year is *Non-Conformists in Northern Tasmania*. At the conclusion of the Symposium, Jenny Gill will lead a tour of the Pilgrim Uniting Church and St Andrew's Church.

Annual General Meeting

The 2009 AGM will be held from 11.45am to 12.45pm at the Annual Symposium on Saturday 18 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 Thursday **9 April 2009**.

A notice of motion to amend the Launceston Historical Society constitution will be put to the members at the AGM to include a new clause 4 (1) (iv) "the protection, preservation and promotion of the heritage of Launceston and its environs".

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
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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)

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.

Tea and coffee will be served after the address.

Advance Notice of Activities

Saturday 18 April 2009, Annual Symposium: *Non-Conformists in Northern Tasmania* and the **Annual General Meeting**. A registration form for the Annual Symposium is enclosed with this 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 map of Launceston*.

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

Sunday 23 August 2009: Elspeth Wishart (TMAG) and Linda Clark (QVMAG), *Convict clothing*.

Sunday 27 September 2009: Dr Dianne Snowden, *Northern women convicts*.

Sunday 18 October 2009: Speaker to be confirmed. Julianne Richards will now speak instead at the 2010 symposium.

Sunday 15 November 2009: Jon Addison, *Reflection on a year as History Curator at the QVMAG*.

Members' Column

New Members: The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Jon Addison, Cheryl Burke, Dianne Cassidy, Robert Clayton, Ian Gasking, Norma Goenitzer, Jill Kenny, Nicholas Knight, Alma McKay, Darrell and Vera Manton, Kim Polley, Garry Richardson, and Jennifer Taylor.

Eric Ratcliff: LHS member Dr Eric Ratcliff is featured in *The Examiner* newspaper’s “My Place” with Alison Andrews on 10 February 2009. His special place in Launceston is Princes Square. Eric has delved into the history of this inner-city oasis, having published an article in a 1996 THRA journal and delivered the public oration on the life of Dr William Pugh the night before the statue of Pugh was unveiled on the steps running into the Square from St John Street.

Nic Haygarth: On Saturday 14 February the 'Town of Tin' walk (historical interpretation) devised by Cathie Plowman and Nic at Waratah was launched by Waratah-Wynyard mayor Kevin Hyland.

Marita Bardenhagen's travelling exhibition entitled ‘Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Lives; a pictorial history of Bush Nursing in Tasmania 1910-1957’ is currently on display at the Community Health Centre at Strahan.

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

Dianne Cassidy, *New Norfolk Invalid and Mental Asylum: Patient Admission Register, 1830-1930*. This listing of names and dates of patient admissions to the Asylum also includes age, occupation, marital status, previous place of abode, and observations. Enquiries to: vdl_absconders@y7mail.com
Price \$33.00.

Nic Haygarth, *Joe Fagan's Waratah*. This well-illustrated, slender book celebrates the life of a great West Coaster, who rescued Waratah from dereliction after the Mount Bischoff Mine expired in 1947. The book was launched by Harold 'Tiger' Dowling at the Bischoff Hotel, Waratah, on 14 February with an audience of about 100 people. For a review see *The Examiner* 28 February 2009, page 37. (\$14.95)

Characters from the Past

From the *Launceston Examiner*, 23 September 1843, page 593.

The Burial Ground. – The state of the road immediately contiguous to the Episcopalian burying ground is disgraceful. After a procession leaves the public thoroughfare it has to wade some three or four hundred yards through as soft a bog as ever Green Erin boasted. Not one shovelful of either metal or gravel has ever been bestowed for the purpose of abating this intolerable nuisance, so that foot mourners (if the weather be anything unfavourable) generally reach the grave in a state much easier to conceive than to describe. Midway between the Patterson's Plains road and the churchyard gate, there yawns a slough which threatens one time or another to be the total destruction of Mr. Bell's hearse, which at the time of Mr. Reiby's (sic) interment was first dis-burthened of the corpse before the driver durst venture to make the passage, and even then it was some minutes before the struggling horses could free the vehicle from the miry hole in which they were engulfed.

Mr James Haydock Reibey, Gentleman, of William Street, Launceston, was buried at the Cypress Street Cemetery on 14 September 1843 in a ceremony conducted by the Holy Trinity Church of England minister. It is probable that Mr Bell was Robert Bell, a cabinetmaker, who in January 1849 was the first tradesman to announce that "no probationers are employed" on his establishment. *Editor.*

Paterson Street Churches

The Pilgrim Uniting Church and St Andrew's Church are to be visited after the Annual Symposium on 18 April.

Pilgrim Uniting Church and old Chapel.



Photos: M Sargent



St Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

Can You Help?

Dressing sandstone

New member Ian Gasking currently is writing a book on building materials and trades practised in early Tasmania, particularly during the Convict era. So far he has been unable to find information on sandstone building tools. He is particularly interested in how sandstone blocks were dressed for use after quarrying. The perimeter edges frequently were grooved using a multi-ridged hand tool about three inches wide, or alternatively a simple milling machine was used. If anyone is able to shed any light on how this was done, Ian would be most appreciative.

Please contact Ian Gasking at 4 Myrtle Place, Perth, Tasmania, 7300. Phone (03) 6398 1725.

Captain Malcolm McEachern

The King Island Historical Society is seeking help in tracing the family of Captain Malcolm McEachern of the ship *Brahmin* that was wrecked off King Island on the 21 May 1854. They are hoping to put together an exhibition for the 155th anniversary of the wreck. Captain McEachern was drowned and the survivors buried him in the sand dunes marking his grave with a marble slab from the wreck. They survived for around six months on the island before being found. McEachern's family, after learning of his fate, formed a rescue party. They set out on the ship *Native Lass* to bring his remains back to Launceston, which they did. The Society is keen to contact his relatives; there was a brother and cousins in Australia, some living in Launceston. His nephew Robert Alfred McEachern (1867-1937) is pictured in the Launceston Family Album.



Contact Sue Fisher by email suefisher@sctelco.net.au, phone (03) 6462 1241 or mobile 0427 621 240.

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

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

Tasmanian Family History Society: The Launceston branch of TFHS has moved into new premises at 'City Park Stables', 45 Tamar Street, Launceston. Open Tuesday 10.00am-3.00pm, 1st & 3rd Saturday 1.30pm-3.30pm. Phone (03) 6344 4034 (Branch Secretary).

Library Book Fair: To be held on Saturday 28 March 2009 at St Ailbe's Hall, Margaret Street, Launceston, from 9.00am to 2.00pm. There will be a large range of second-hand books, magazines, CDs and DVDs as well as several local authors with their own books for sale. The Friends of the Library will have a table with *On the Tide I, II and III*, *Voyages in a Caravan*, Alison Andrew's *Ali's People*, Gill Morris' *The Journals of Charlotte Cleveland* and Jai Paterson's *A Fortune May be Made*.

Roving Curator Program: A Workshop Calendar for 2008-2010 is obtainable 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 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.

Constructing the Past: The Australian Historical Association is organising a conference to be held from 30 June to 3 July 2009 at the University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. In conjunction with *Constructing the Past* conference, *The Girl in History* conference, organised by the Network for Research in Women's History, is to be held on 1 July 2009. Contact Joanne Scott by email on aha2009@usc.edu.au.

Islands of Memory: Navigating Personal and Public History

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

Hobart Town (1804) First Settlers Association Inc: 10th Biennial Tasmanian Local History Conference, *Manufacturers and Traders of Van Diemen's Land 1820-1860*. To be held on 9-10 October 2009 at Wrest Point, Hobart. In conjunction with the conference, the Association is holding an Art Competition. Artists are invited to present up to three pieces of work depicting a building, bridge or structure built before 1860 in Tasmania, and which is still standing. Entry forms are available at libraries and other outlets. Closing date is 30 June 2009. Prizes of \$500.00, \$250.00 and \$100.00 will be awarded. For enquiries email hobarttown1804settlers@hotmail.com, phone (03) 6272 8737 or write to PO Box 337 Glenorchy TAS 7010.

New Book: A flyer has been received publicising the book by Neville Hayes, *Billy Stutt and the Richmond Flyboys: The New South Wales State Aviation School 1915-1918 and beyond*. It contains some Tasmanian content regarding the wreckage of a plane which was found by a 14-year-old duck shooter. Was this Billy Stutt's ill-fated DH9A? Enquiries: pacdown@nex.net.au or phone (03) 5952 2927. Price \$25.00 plus postage.

Book: Tony Satchell's book, *For better or worse: Convict lives shaped by transportation*, was published in 2003. It portrays the lives of 88 convicts as contributed by their descendants. The author still has copies available for sale at \$14.00 each. Contact Tony by email rasatchell@hotmail.com.

Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the 14 April 2009 LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **1 April 2009**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 May 2009** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.