



Launceston Historical Society Inc

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

History Prize Presentation at Milton Hall



Jenny Gill, Alderman Frank Nott, Dr Marita Bardenhagen and Carol Fuller. Photo: M Sargent

The presentation of the LHS History Prize Awards by Deputy Mayor Frank Nott at Milton Hall on Friday 13 November was a most successful event. About 80 children, parents and teachers were proud and excited as each child was given a certificate of participation and a Launceston City Council badge. The winners of each category were presented with another certificate as well. President Dr Marita Bardenhagen and Treasurer and Judge Carol Fuller read the Judges' Report and spoke about the Award. All enjoyed afternoon tea as those attending browsed the entries that were on display. Later these were exhibited for two weeks at the Launceston Library. See the Report on page 2, the winners on page 3 and more photographs on page 4.

Leisure Transport in Northern Tasmania

On 15 November Jon Addison, the History Curator at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, presented an interesting illustrated talk on the development of transport for leisure – initially the reserve of the wealthy – such as the horse-drawn phaeton. Over time industrialisation enabled more people to enjoy travelling purely for pleasure, with the development of such machine-driven vehicles as river steamers, trains, motorcycles, buses and of course the motor car. Bicycles have been an individual form of leisure transport since the invention of the boneshaker circa 1870. See a photo and article in *The Examiner* on 16 November 2009, page 12.



Jon Addison with a train engine at the QVMAG. Photo: M Sargent

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

Judges' Comments 'Objects of History' Competition 2009

We were delighted to receive 110 entries, an increase on last year. Disappointingly there were no entries from senior secondary and only 6 from secondary students. Consequently the prizes for the senior secondary sector named the **Eric and Patricia Ratcliff Award**, were redistributed to provide more special awards for younger participants.

The variety of topic choice was amazing and judges were impressed by the imaginative thinking promoted by teachers and exercised by the students. Some subjects of particular interest were a family diary, buttons, native drums, pieces of art, teddy bears and shell necklaces.



Presentation was of a particularly high standard making it difficult to choose the winning entries. Participants, with the help of their teachers and parents, had obviously put a lot of time, effort and thought into individual projects. The use of technology and scrap booking skills gave the work a professional polish and the imaginative 'aging' of some entries made work look very authentic which impressed the judges.

The main focus of the competition was of course how thoroughly participants had conducted historical research, how fully and accurately the history was recorded, how ethically the sources had been used and acknowledged and how attractively the information had been presented. All these are important skills to be learned and utilised by the student of history. We hope that students' understanding of these aspects of historical study have benefitted through their participation in this competition.

The overall standard of work was exceptional. The judges thoroughly enjoyed reading each entry. We learned new things, laughed at some expressions, marvelled at the magnitude of some research and felt elated that there are so many children, parents and teachers out there who genuinely value history.

All judges say it was difficult to make decisions and this judging panel is no exception. We only wished we could give more prizes. However the worth of the exercise is in the experience and the doing and from the resulting work we can see that teachers have made this a worthwhile experience for students at all levels.

Carol Fuller, Nic Haygarth and Andrew Gregg

Launceston Historical Society History Prize Recipients 2009

'OBJECTS OF HISTORY'

Grade 3 /4 1st

Eden Lava 'Claude Harold Ponting'

Honourable Mentions

Lillian Sturzaker 'Chalmers Church'

Keely Parker 'Family Coin Collection'

Grade 5 /6 1st

Mitchell Zasadny 'Paterson Army Barracks'

Honourable Mentions

Aleyna Firat 'It's About Us 2006'

Connor Moir 'Tamar River'

Grade 7 /8 Equal 1st

Brenton Preece 'Huntsman and Meander Sawmills'

Caleb Preece 'Stagg's Track'

Grade 9 / 10 1st

Charlotte Green 'Ollington Family Cemetery'

Honourable Mentions

William Egan 'Proclamation of the Republic of Ireland'

Ayesha Armstrong 'Franklin House'

SPECIAL AWARDS

Judges' Award

Molly King 'Golden Locket', a poem

President's Award

Jhdara Matson-Jones & Jack Rosier 'Manalagena Kani'

Eric and Patricia Ratcliff Awards

Jacob Bonney 'Slouch Hat'
Isaac Floyd 'City Park and Albert Hall'
Millicent Fulton 'Torn between two Cultures'
Tegan Maree Jarvis 'Bruno the Bull'
Zoe Ling 'Cataract Gorge'

Photographs of the History Prize Award presentation at Milton Hall, Launceston, 13 November 2009

Photos: Marion Sargent



Christmas BBQ at York Town, by Marion Sargent

The West Tamar Historical Society hosted a most enjoyable Christmas barbeque and guided tour of the York Town Historic Site on Sunday 29 November. John Dent's informative description of the area gave us an insight into how the settlement was formed and grew under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel William Paterson from 1804 until it was virtually abandoned in 1808. Unfortunately, a portion of this historic site, one of the earliest and most important in Australia, is still in private ownership. We were dismayed to see that a trench has been dug right through a hut site, revealing bricks, thin window glass, willow pattern china and thick brown glass from bottles. The WTHS is keen to buy more land and hand it over to government agencies in a bid to protect the first settlement in northern Tasmania so that future generations can study and appreciate its significance. An article and photograph appeared in *The Examiner* on 30 November 2009, page 7.



John Dent regaling the group with tales of early York Town.



The trench cut through a hut site at York Town.
Photos: Marion Sargent



John Dent with artefacts found in the trench.

Advance Notice of Activities

Sunday 21 February 2009: To be advised

Friday 12 March 2010: *The Examiner*-John West Memorial Lecture, Prof Tim Flannery.

Saturday 17 April 2010: Launceston Historical Society Symposium, *Tasmanians and War*.

Sunday 16 May 2010: Alison Alexander?

Sunday 20 June 2010: Nick Clements, *The Black War*

Members' Column

New Members: The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Rhonda Hamilton, Angela McGowan and Annette Tyson.

Archaeology Group: Eight members attended the November meeting. We discussed various aspect of early Launceston history, including our recent site visit on the North Esk River, as well as proposed meeting dates for next year. There will be **no** meeting in December or January and we will next meet on the last Tuesday in February, the 23rd at 1.00pm at the Launceston Library. We also decided to only meet every second month next year which will be April, June, August and October. In the intervening periods we will try to organise some site visits to places of interest. If anyone has ideas of places to visit please let John Dent know.

Waverley Woollen Mills: Several LHS members had some involvement in the publication of the latest book in the Friends of the Library, Launceston, Local History Series. *The outcome of enterprise: Launceston's Waverley Woollen Mills* by Julian Burgess, the nephew of LHS member Prof Paul Edwards, acknowledges the help of members Mike McCausland, Barbara Valentine, Keith Sykes, Ross Smith and Marion Sargent. A photo and article appeared in *The Examiner* on 21 November 2009 page 6, the day after its launch at the Launceston Library. The book is available at the Library for \$25.00.

Peter Cox and Chris Tassell: Peter, The Low Head Lighthouse Support Group chairman, and Chris, the National Trust (Tasmania) managing director, were delighted when the Low Head Pilot Station was added to the National Trust's list of Tasmanian heritage icons. The State Government has committed almost \$1 million to the site for refurbishment. See *The Examiner* 17 November 2009, page 17.

Community Achievement Award: The presentation night was held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor on 14 November 2009. Anne Bartlett was a finalist in the Qew Orchards Outstanding Award section. LHS President Dr Marita Bardenhagen attended the dinner and took the photographs below.



Henry and Anne Bartlett at the dinner.



Barbara and Roger Valentine checking out the wine.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Recent Publications by Members

Dr Jillian Koshin, *Electric Eric: The Life and Times of an Australian State Premier* was launched at the Invermay Primary School on 20 November 2009. The books are available from bookshops for \$49.95 soft cover and \$69.95 hard cover.

Characters from the Past

Launceston Examiner, 12 August 1846, page 507

Burglary at George Town – On Friday night, a man in the employ of Dr. Smith, usually called “white bearded Bob”, was observed in the evening to be skulking about Mr. Jones’s shop, in the middle of the night, the servant in the adjoining house, heard some dreadful moanings; she gave the alarm, and after considerable trouble found they issued from the chimney of Mr Jones’s shop; on going up they ascertained that a man in attempting to get into the shop by way of the chimney, after having descended a few feet, became so jammed that he could not disengage himself either to get up or down; and so completely had he succeeded in making himself fast, that the constables were obliged to pull down [a] great part of the chimney before they could get him out. He is now in custody, and will no doubt be committed for trial.

Can You Help?

Northern Club site query: I am researching my late husband’s family – his grandmother was Mary Frances Abra born in Launceston in 1866. We have a photograph of a house in Cameron Street which was supposedly a boarding house, owned or managed by a Mrs Abra (Mary Frances’s mother?). The house is now the Northern Club, and has been considerably changed in the last 100+ years. I have information about it from the time the club was launched in 1894, and the premises were purchased from the National Bank of Tasmania in 1900. I have searched the assessment rolls, but cannot find anyone named Abra at that address at any time during the later 1800s. I would be very grateful if anyone in your society could shed any more light on this for me.

Contact Jay Venables by email at jayvenables@xtra.co.nz or the Society.

Moorina School: A lady in Victoria has a photo dated 1911 of a group of students of Moorina school; she believes a couple of her relatives are in the photo. I have quite a few old school records and have a few details on who the head teachers were and the date of opening and closing, but I cannot find anything much relating to the school or its students. Archives don't have anything at all, which surprises me; I would have thought they would at least have the Admission Register. I don't know what would have happened to the records when the school closed in 1940. There appears to be a lot of information about the Chinese settlement but little about the local schools or students such as Herrick and Pioneer. Any information would be much appreciated.

Contact Pat Lloyd by email patricia.lloyd@education.tas.gov.au or the Society.

Other Items and Events of Interest

Norfolk Plains Heritage Centre, 11 William Street, Longford, is open from 11.00am to 4.00pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays and from 2.00pm to 4.00pm on Sundays. See the excellent photograph collection on www.nationaltrusttas.org.au.

Heritage protection Society (Tasmania) Inc: This new independent community based organisation was formed in September to protect Tasmania's heritage and cultural lifestyle. Contact Patricia Woods, Secretary, mobile 0409 568 291 or PO Box 513 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.

Manuscript 3251: Van Diemen's Land 1821 – 1862: <http://manuscript3251.wordpress.com/about/>
The original documents of this manuscript [ms 3251] are held in the Manuscripts Library of the National Library of Australia in Canberra. It was transcribed between 2007 and 2009 by two enthusiasts, and is provided on the above website in its entirety. These nine volumes, bound c.1920s, were purchased by Ferguson in 1930 from Ridge's Antiques, Launceston. The volumes comprise Van Diemen's Land official documents, predominately Depositions and Police Magistrate reports from 1820-1850s Launceston and the Norfolk Plains district (Longford). The aim of the website is to share this window into frontier VDL in an interactive way so that relevant associated information and web links will be added by you, the readers of these transcripts. Anything further you can provide about the events, the places and the people involved, will enrich the understanding and accessibility of these accounts. (Julie Gough)

Australian Newspapers Digitization Program: We wait with anticipation for *The Launceston Examiner* to be added to the National Library of Australia's online newspapers website. We have been informed that it will be uploaded in 2010 in two parts – 1844-1879 and 1880-1954. We hope that the earlier papers from 1842 have not been forgotten! <http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>

Let's Talk About Deviot: The Deviot Community Association is holding a conference at the Deviot Hall, 512 Deviot Road, Deviot, on Saturday 16 January 2010, from 8.45am to 5.00pm. Nine speakers, including four LHS members – Jill Cassidy, Peter Cox, Gus Green and Angela Prosser-Green – will be presenting papers on various aspects of Deviot history, businesses and recreational activities. Enquiries: Jill Cassidy 6394 7677.

Outback & Beyond – The future of historic towns, industrial heritage and pastoralism: The Australia ICOMOS annual conference will be held at the Broken Hill Entertainment Centre, Blende Street, on 22-25 April 2010. Enquiries: stepowsk@tpg.com.au.

Tasmanian Heritage Festival May 2010: The theme for the National Trust 2010 Heritage Festival is "20th Century Heritage" with a title "*Deco to Digital – Our 20th Century Heritage*". This will provide the opportunity of exploring a wide range of issues including industrialisation, social change, twentieth century architecture and our changing appreciation of heritage. Enquiries: phone 6344 6233 or email admin@nationaltrusttas.org.au.

The Launceston Players are presenting *Dinkum Assorted* by Linda Aronson at the Annexe Theatre on 12-15 May 2010. Written for a cast of 15 women, *Dinkum Assorted* is a wild comedy with music and tap dancing, set alongside some thought-provoking stories about women striving for personal freedom. Set in an Australian country town during World War II, the play shows how the all-female factory workers fight to save their Biscuit Factory and the Dinkum Assorted Brand of biscuits, run a 'Mum's Army' Civil Defence Unit and put on a show for the war effort. Not to mention coping with the two thousand US airmen stationed outside the town. We may even be treated to a preview at our symposium in April!

Tall Trees Family History: See this website for CDs on Victorian and Western Australian cemetery transcriptions and other sources of family history information: <http://members.westnet.com.au/talltrees>.

Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the 9 February 2010 LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **1 February 2010**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 February 2010** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.