



Launceston Historical Society Inc

Newsletter No 120

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

Sunday 21 February 2010 – 2.30pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

Julian Burgess: Waverley Woollen Mills, the start of an industry

Synopsis: In 1869 the Tasmanian government announced a £1000 bonus for the first person or company to manufacture £1000 worth of woollen goods from Tasmanian-grown wool. Up to this time nearly all the wool produced in Tasmania was shipped to London and sold to the woollen mills of England and Scotland, whose products returned to Australia. Several Tasmanians decided to take up the government's challenge and in 1874 a race developed between mills in Hobart and Launceston to claim the £1000 bonus. The winner was expatriate Scot, Peter Bulman, whose Waverley Woollen Mills met the criteria for the prize; this saw the start of an industry in Launceston that, at its peak, would employ more than 3000 people.

Bio: Julian Burgess has worked for *The Examiner* newspaper for more than 40 years. Starting in the proofreading room he has been a printing compositor, journalist and departmental manager, and currently is Associate Editor and Online Editor.

He is the author of three books and has edited two others:

2009 – *The Outcome of Enterprise: Launceston's Waverley Woollen Mills* (Julian Burgess, published by the Friends of the Library).

2009 – *Cruel Wind: Business Post Naiad and the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race Disaster* (co-authors and publishers Robert Matthews and Julian Burgess).

2008 – *Australian Three Peaks Race: The first 20 years* (Julian Burgess and Paul Scambler, published by the ATPR organising committee).

Editor of *One Man's Journey* (Ken Gourlay, 2007) and *Buying and Selling Real Estate in Australia* (Michael Dean, 1999).

Membership Renewals

Annual subscriptions for the Launceston Historical Society Inc were due on 31 January 2010. Fees have been increased by 20%. 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

LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President	Marita Bardenhagen	6334 4490
Vice-President	Marion Sargent	6331 4890
Minute Secretary	John Dent	6331 4099
Correspondence Secretary	Jai Paterson	
Treasurer	Carol Fuller	6331 1558
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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)

Advance Notice of Activities

Friday 12 March 2010: *The Examiner*-John West Memorial Lecture, Prof Tim Flannery will speak on *The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme – is it right for Australia?* at the Albert Hall, Cimitiere Street, Launceston, at 8.00pm. Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear such a renowned speaker.

Saturday 17 April 2010: Launceston Historical Society Symposium, *Tasmanian Women and War* and Annual General Meeting

Sunday 16 May 2010: Alison Alexander, *Tasmania's Convicts*

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

Sunday 18 July 2010: To be advised

Sunday 15 August 2010: Steve Radford, *Shipping in Western Bass Strait*

Sunday 19 September 2010: Patsy Cameron and Linn Miller

Members' Column

New Members: The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Elizabeth Fenton, Elizabeth McBride and Patrick McBride.

Archaeology Group: The next meeting will be on 23 February 2010 (the last Tuesday) at 1.00pm at the Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library.

Jill Cassidy organised the history exhibition that was part of the Deviot Undressed 2010 celebration. See the photograph and article in *The Examiner* 15 January 2010, page 11.

Tasmanian Historical Research Association Calendar: Three LHS members are presenting talks to THRA in 2010 at the Royal Society Room, Custom House, TMAG, starting at 8.00pm:

9 March, Roger Kellaway: *Temporary Tasmanians? New Zealanders and the Zeehan silver rush;*

13 April, John Dent: *York Town: then (1804-1808) and now (2000-2010);*

11 May, Julie Gough: *Manuscript 3251: the interrelations of Norfolk Plains, 1820s-1840s: depositions across race, class & gender.*

John Dent presented a paper on West Tamar residents who turned to bushranging in the early days of settlement at the 6th Annual Low Head conference on 6 February 2010 held at the Pilot Station Boat Shed, Low Head.

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 hardcover. See the review in *The Examiner* on 16 January 2010, page 34.

Dr Nic Haygarth, 'The summit of our ambition': *Cradle Mountain and the highland bushwalks of William Dubrelle Weston*, in THRA P&P, Vol 56, No3, December 2009, pages 207-224.

Professor Michael Roe, *The slow death of Norfolk's first settlement*, in THRA P&P, Vol 56, No3, December 2009, pages 244-257.

Characters from the Past

Launceston Examiner, 8 January 1871, page 3

Police Court: (Before T Mason, Esq., Police Magistrate)

Indecent Behaviour. – Walter T Airey, manager of the Theatre Royal, prosecuted Seymour Spiller, one of the performers, for behaving indecently at the theatre on the night of the 28th December. Mr. Airey complained of the defendant having, while on the stage in a state of intoxication, on the night of the 28th, placed his finger to his nose at the audience. The Bench dismissed the case.



The Theatre Royal, St John Street, Launceston, opened on 1 June 1857 and demolished in 1878. Photo published in the *Weekly Courier* 19 August 1905, page 22. Courtesy Launceston Reference Library.

Other Items and Events of Interest

Tasmanian Heritage Register: The C H Smith building has been listed permanently on the Tasmanian Heritage Register, while another three Launceston icons have been listed provisionally. These are:

Royal Park; convict Thomas Black's cottage in Canning Street; and the Rankin and Bond Foundry in Cimitiere Street, Launceston's oldest continually-working brass foundry, operating since 1880. For more information see *The Examiner* 16 January 2010, page 9; and 4 February 2010, pages 1 and 2.

Cradle Mountain Journeys 1920-1926: An exhibition of photographs from albums compiled by Frederick Smithies (1885-1979) and George Record (1899-1956) held in the Local Studies Collection, Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office, Launceston, is currently on display on the second floor, Launceston Library, Civic Square. LHS member Catherine Pearce curated the exhibition.

National Book Council: Guest speaker for the February meeting is Ted Richey, author of *Dick Richey the flying fisherman: memories of flying, fishing, rescues and family*, a biography celebrating the life of Dick Richey OBE, a pioneer, fisherman, pilot and hero, and his wife Dell. Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library, Civic Square, Wednesday, 17 February, 1.15pm.

Making Museums Work: Writing Successful Grant Applications. The Roving Curators and Arts Tasmania's Program Officer will present a workshop on how to create an effective grant application at the QVMAG Meeting Room, Inveresk, on Thursday 25 February from 9.30am and up to 4.00pm. Contact Elizabeth.Adkins@arts.tas.gov.au or Veronica.Macno@arts.tas.gov.au or phone 6233 7308.

Launceston Tramway Museum Society: Thirty-six volunteers are striving to preserve the heritage of the Launceston Municipal Tramways at their Inveresk Museum and Workshop. Much of their time has been spent restoring trams, raising funds and building displays. Now they are focusing on creating a unique tourist attraction where visitors can experience different types of public transport that once ran in our streets. Society members need financial support from the federal government to achieve their goals. They are seeking letters both from individuals and organisations to demonstrate that the project is worthwhile and that it enjoys strong community support. Send letters to John Perkins, President, Launceston Tramway Museum Society, PO Box 889 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.

Library Book Fair: St Ailbie's Hall, Margaret Street, Launceston, Saturday 27 March 2010.

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 National Museum of Australia currently is developing a temporary and travelling exhibition on the Irish in Australia, 1788 to the present day. Staff members are interested in hearing from regional museums, galleries or historical societies from which material culture might be lent. Dr Richard Reid is heading the team developing the exhibition that is to be opened on St Patrick's Day, 17 March 2011. The main themes of the exhibition are: Emigration, Convicts, Settlement of cities, Settlement of rural Australia, Irish Nationalism in Australia, Public Life, Irish Australians and Indigenous Australians, Religion, Legends, Irish Australians today. Besides our interest in borrowing material, we aim to develop an awareness of the nationally distributed collection of Irish Australian material. Enquiries: Cinnamon van Reyk, Curator, Phone (02) 6208 5107 or email cvanreyk@nma.gov.au

Deadlines

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