



Launceston Historical Society Inc

Newsletter No 122

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

Welcome to the new Committee members for 2010

The new committee for 2010-11 was elected at the AGM on Saturday 17 April; and we warmly welcome the three latest recruits: Leonie Prevost (Correspondence Secretary), Margaret Tassell and Gus Green. Marita Bardenhagen was appointed President for another term. The other committee members are: Marion Sargent (Vice-President), John Dent (Minute Secretary), Carol Fuller (Treasurer), Jon Addison, Jenny Gill, Andrew Gregg and Nic Haygarth. We sincerely thank Anne Bartlett, Jill Cassidy and Jai Paterson – all now resigned from the committee – for their invaluable contribution over the past years.

The Examiner-John West Lecture

Professor Tim Flannery presented his lecture "The CPRS – Is it right for Australia?" to an enthusiastic audience of 880 at the Albert Hall on Friday evening 12 March 2010. He praised the Rudd Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme as the right way forward for Australia and supports the Copenhagen Accord as an important step towards reducing pollution and therefore slowing climate change. The lecture was supported by *The Examiner*, a community grant from the Launceston City Council; and financial assistance by the University of Tasmania, Natural Resource Management North and the World Education Forum Tasmania.



Fiona Reynolds, Editor of *The Examiner*, guest speaker Professor Tim Flannery, LHS President Dr Marita Bardenhagen and Chris Tassell, who moved the vote of thanks. Photo: M Sargent

Membership Renewals

A **blue spot** on your newsletter indicates that your subscription has not been paid. Please send your remittance as soon as possible to ensure that you receive the next newsletter. A renewal form was included with the February newsletter. One is also available online at <http://www.tco.asn.au>. Type "LHS" in the search field; the renewal form and application to join are located on the right hand side of the "Launceston Historical Society" page.

LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President	Marita Bardenhagen	6334 4490
Vice-President	Marion Sargent	6331 4890
Minute Secretary	John Dent	6331 4099
Correspondence Secretary	Leonie Prevost	
Treasurer	Carol Fuller	6331 1558
Newsletter Editor	Marion Sargent	6331 4890
Speaker Coordinator & Publications Editor	Vacant	

All correspondence should be sent to: PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 or launcestonhistory@gmail.com

Society Website: www.launcestonhistory.org.au

May Talk

Sunday 16 May 2010 – 2.30pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

Alison Alexander: Tasmania's Convicts: how felons built a free society

Biography: Alison Alexander was born and educated in Hobart, and gained a doctorate in Australian History at the University of Tasmania. Alison has written twenty books of history – mainly commissioned histories of Tasmanian institutions ranging from Launceston Church Grammar School to the Clarence Football Club. She has lectured in Australian History at the University of Tasmania and at present is a free-lance historian specialising in women's history, and Tasmania's social history, particularly concerning convicts.

Synopsis: Dr Alexander will speak about her recently-published book *Tasmania's Convicts*. This work is an analysis of what sorts of people convicts were and what they did after they were freed; how and why the 'convict stain' developed; and how it was defeated. Books will be available for sale for \$45.00.

June Talk

Sunday 20 June 2010 – 2.30pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

Nick Clements: The Black War

The so-called 'Black War', for the most part, is written of as the 'White War'. When Professor Henry Reynolds penned his seminal book, *The Other Side of the Frontier*, publishers refused to take him seriously. They claimed that there were simply not the sources. Undeterred, he published it independently; and it soon became a classic, demonstrating clearly that such an undertaking was more than possible. Yet, although the conflict has been researched extensively, no serious attempt has been made to write the other side of the Tasmanian frontier. This is in spite of the fact that the journals of George Augustus Robinson constitute the richest primary source of its kind in the country. Nick claims that there is more than enough evidence to write such a history, though it will need to be approached from several angles.

Firstly, there are some things that all human beings need, love, despise, enjoy, prefer, etc. A close examination of the topography, climate, and resources, together with settler distribution and activities, not only allows the historian to make widely informed inferences where direct evidence is scarce, but to shed light on what evidence there is. Secondly, one must construct, as far as possible, a detailed ethnographic picture of Tasmanian Aborigines and their world-view. These first two approaches are intended to complement and tentatively to fill in the gaps of a third, which is to collate all available references to the testimonies and actions of Aborigines concerning the war. How did the Aborigines experience the conflict and why did they act the way they did? Nick will discuss the methodological approaches he is employing to answer those questions, as well as several hypotheses to which they have given rise.

April Symposium

Tasmanian Women and War



Four of the speakers: Billie Pearce, Jenny Gill, Dr Jillian Koshin and Anne Bartlett.
Photo: M Sargent

The Annual Symposium held on 17 April was a success with 43 people enjoying the five speakers who provided differing aspects of the roles of women in the two World Wars. Keynote speaker **Dr Jillian Koshin** outlined the various organisations and individuals in Launceston who raised funds, made garments and supported the boys at the front. **Julianne Richards** spoke about the fascinating diary of Elsie Tranter, who was a nurse on the Western Front during World War One. **Billie Pearce** recounted her own experiences in the Women's Land Army during the Second World War. After lunch the **Launceston Players** treated us to some songs and skits from the play *Dinkum Assorted* which will be showing at the Annexe Theatre on 12-15 May. **Anne Bartlett**, sourcing the columns of the *Circular Head Chronicle*, related activities of the Circular Head community in its work to support the war effort during World War One. **Jenny Gill** ended the day with an emotional tribute to Jessie Elizabeth Simons, Launceston's only female POW. We were honoured to have four of Jessie's nieces in the audience.

Advance Notice of Activities

Sunday 18 July 2010: Eleanor Cave, *History of Tasmanian botany*

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

Sunday 19 September 2010: Patsy Cameron and Linn Miller, *Telling places in country: following historical storylines home*

Sunday 17 October 2010: Dianne Snowden, *Convict Women in Northern Tasmania*

Sunday 21 November 2010: Julie Gough, *Norfolk Plains revealed?*

Members' Column

New Members: The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Eleanor Cave, Mary Hutchinson, Peter Mercer and Brian Rollins.

Archaeology Group: The next meeting will be on 29 June 2010 (the last Tuesday) at 1.00pm at the Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library.

Papers and Proceedings: The P&Ps for 2007 and 2008 finally have been published. Members who have paid already will have received copies in the mail. Extra copies are available for \$12.00 each.

History of words

The Kelso Chronicle, Scotland, 28 February 1862, page 3

You will often be able to glean knowledge from the names of things. What a record of inventions is preserved in the names which so many articles bear, of the place from which they first came, or the person by whom they were first invented.

The “magnet” has its name from Magnesia [in central Greece].

The “bayonet” tells us that it was made first at Bayonne [a city in France].

“Worsted”, ...was first spun at a village of the same name, in the neighbourhood of Norwich [fabric made from fine smooth-surfaced long-staple woollen yarn].

“Cambrics” ...reached us from Cambrai [a fine white linen or cotton from Cambrai, Northern France].

“Damask” from Damascus [reversible figured woven fabric from Syria].

The “damson” also is the “damascene”, or Damascus plum.

“Dimity” from Damietta [a cotton fabric with raised stripes from Damietta, Egypt].

“Cordwain” or “cordovan” from Cordova [fine soft leather from Cordova, Spain].

“Currants” from Corinth [dried Black Corinth grapes from Greece]

To be continued...

Other Items and Events of Interest

Oral History Workshop: Jill Cassidy will conduct an oral history workshop from 10.00am – 4.45pm on Saturday 22 May at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk, for the Oral History Association of Australia (Tas) Inc. It will cover all aspects of oral history practice. Topics include the value of oral history, the use of equipment, preparation for an interview and interview technique, along with ethics and alternatives to transcription. There will be a demonstration of the OHAA’s hireable digital recorder, and participants will do practice interviews and listen to interview excerpts.

Cost of the workshop (includes lunch) is \$30.00 members of OHAA, \$45 for non-members, and \$20 for students. Prior registration is essential. Contact Jill Cassidy on 6394 7677 or 0418 178 098, or email mandicassidy@gmail.com.

After Macquarie – Conserving Heritage Places: A one-day symposium for people interested in the conservation of heritage properties. 9.00am – 5.00pm, Saturday 22 May, Clarendon, Nile. Bookings are essential, phone National Trust State Office, 6344 6233.

The Hidden Thread: Huguenot Families in Australia. Edited by Robert Nash, this illustrated book can be purchased for \$50.00 (including postage) from the Huguenot Society of Australia Inc PO Box 184 NEWTOWN NSW 2042. For further details contact ozhug@optushome.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 increasing appreciation of heritage. Enquiries: phone 6344 6233 or email admin@nationaltrusttas.org.au.

Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the 8 June 2010 LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **1 June 2010**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 June 2010** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.