



Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 124

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

VDL Correspondents

On 18 July 2010 Eleanor Cave presented a fascinating talk on the Van Diemen's Land botanists who corresponded with William Hooker and his son Joseph in Britain. Her focus was Ronald Campbell Gunn, who collected thousands of plant specimens from throughout VDL and sent them to Hooker. They are still housed at Kew Gardens and each sheet of paper, with specimen attached, tells a story of where and when it was collected as well as who researched it over the years. William Archer, collector and botanical illustrator, also corresponded with Hooker. His letters were chatty, with colonial gossip and family matters included. Eleanor is attempting to make sense of the myriad of letters between the botanists and plans to publish her work in the future.



Speaker Eleanor Cave and Margaret Tassell after the talk.



Nic Haygarth and speaker Steve Radford.

Shipping in Western Bass Strait

Steve Radford's informative talk on 15 August 2010 covered the history of King Island from European discovery and settlement, sealing ventures, the building of lighthouses, to the development of shipping services provided by many vessels that plied their trade between ports on mainland Tasmania and the Island. These included the *John Franklin*, which sparked Steve's fascination with Bass Strait shipping back in the 1960s. As with so many of these ships, the *Will Watch* – built in NSW in 1895 – met a sad end in December 1958 when she went down in heavy seas with five crew and three horses on board. Steve paid tribute to Wayne Shipp, recently passed away, who for more than 30 years was the curator of the Pilot Station Museum at Low Head. The LHS gave a donation to the Museum in his memory.

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

Tasmania's Macquarie Heritage

On 31 August the LHS archaeology group hosted a talk by Ian Boersma entitled "Tasmania's Macquarie Heritage". Twenty-two people heard Ian describe and show images of the remaining structures from the Macquarie era: 1810 to 1821. Ian identified 15 private buildings and houses, 5 public buildings, one grave marker and a lime kiln that remain from this period. In the north the sites are Middle Arm Lime Kiln, 'Mt Stuart' (Newnham), 'Woolmers', 'Entally' and 'The Grange' (St Leonards). Ian acknowledged that dating buildings from this period is often difficult and there might well be more buildings or structures that still remain. If anyone knows of any, please contact John Dent on 0408 133 656.



John Dent and speaker Ian Boersma.

September Talk

Sunday 19 September 2010 – 2.30pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

Patsy Cameron and Linn Miller, Telling places in country: Tasmanian journeylines through time and space

In 1830 the colonial government of Van Diemen's Land established its so-called 'Friendly Mission' operation, led by George Augustus Robinson, designed to circumambulate the island rounding up Aboriginal clanspeople in preparation for their exile on Flinders Island.

Telling Places in Country is a collaborative research project funded by AIATSIS which re-traces selected journeylines of the 'Friendly Mission' through northeast Tasmania. In the process distinctly Aboriginal placescapes come into view, distinctly Aboriginal voices are heard and distinctly Aboriginal narratives are told. What unfolds makes a unique contribution to our understanding of Robinson's expeditions, as well as contact relations on the Tasmanian colonial frontier.

Patsy Cameron is an Aboriginal historian, cultural geographer and Elder from the islands of Eastern Bass Strait, Tasmania.

Dr Linn Miller is a lecturer in the School of Philosophy and Research Fellow of the Community Engaged Aboriginal Research Initiative at the University of Tasmania, Launceston.

October Talk

Sunday 17 October 2010 – 2.30pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

Dianne Snowden, Convict Women of Northern Tasmania

The paper will explore the individual lives of some of the women assigned in Northern Tasmania, including their lives after they were free. In particular, the paper will concentrate on the women from the *Rajah* (1841), some of whom were assigned to the Archers and others who ended up in the Longford area. The quilt made by the convict women on the *Rajah* is now held by the National Gallery in Canberra.

Dr Snowden is a professional historian and genealogist based in Richmond, Tasmania, and has served on the Tasmanian Heritage Council including as Interim Chair. She has extensive involvement in a range of volunteer organisations such as the Association for Children with Disability, the Tasmanian Historical Research Association (THRA) and is currently vice-president of the Coal River Valley Historical Society. She represents THRA on the Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS). She is a Board Member of the National Trust (Tasmania), the Female Factory Historic Site and a member of the State Library of Tasmania Advisory Board. Since 2008, she has been a member of the National Archives of Australia Advisory Council.

Dr Snowden has taught Adult Education classes in family history for more than 25 years and recently ran the UTAS Winter School *Researching Family History*.

She completed her doctorate – ‘“A White Rag Burning”: Irish Women who committed arson in order to be transported to Van Diemen's Land’ at UTAS in 2005. She is currently working on its publication.

Dr Snowden is founder and convenor of the Friends of the Orphan School and St John's Park Precinct, and as an Honorary Research Associate at the University of Tasmania, is working on a longitudinal study of children admitted to the Orphan Schools. In July 2010, she presented a paper at Queen's University Belfast on the free children who accompanied convict parents to Van Diemen's Land.

In 2008, Dr Snowden was commissioned by the FAHS to write *Heritage tourism in Australia: a guide for historical societies*, published online at: www.history.org.au

She is currently completing a centenary history for the South Hobart Soccer Club as well as a history of the *Rajah* with Dr Trudy Cowley.

Advance Notice of Activities

Sunday 21 November 2010: Julie Gough, *Norfolk Plains revealed. Frontier accounts from 1821 – 1861*.

Sunday 28 November 2010: This year's Christmas function will be hosted by the Tasmanian Horse Drawn Vehicle Foundation. Meet at 'Bonny Brae Farm', 42 Clarence Point Road, Clarence Point, at 11.30am for noon BYO barbecue followed by a tour of their collection of vehicles and then afternoon tea (\$5.00 charge). RSVP Gus Green during the day on 0408 355 561. See separate flyer for more details.

Members' Column

New Members: The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Phillip Coombes, Eilin Hordvik and Katrina Ross.

Committee change: The resignation of Nic Haygarth from the LHC executive committee has been received with regret, but we are pleased to announce that our webmaster Barney Reynolds has stepped in to fill the vacancy.

Archaeology Group: The next meeting will be on 26 October 2010 (the last Tuesday) at 1.00pm at the Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library.

Call for papers: Next year's Symposium, to be held on Saturday 16 April 2011, will be entitled "The Indian Connection with Tasmania". The committee has several possible speakers in mind, but those who have researched any aspect on this topic are invited to submit an expression of interest.

Newsletter: Members who have provided a workable email address will now be notified by email when the Newsletter is available on our website www.launcestonhistory.org.au.

Afternoon teas: We are looking for a volunteer to organise the afternoon teas for our Sunday meetings. Please see one of the committee members if you are able to help.

Characters From the Past

The Launceston Examiner, 13 April 1887, page 2.

Marriage Extraordinary. – Pastor White has more to answer for than many members of his profession, as we learn that yesterday he united in wedlock his three hundredth couple. On this occasion the happy bridegroom was a frivolous young spark of ninety, while his blushing bride was thirty years his junior. Our readers will join us in the wish that a long and happy life may be before them!

This marriage took place on 12 April 1887 at the Baptist Tabernacle in Cimitiere Street, Launceston, between William Morris and Mary Johnson. Editor



Hobler's Bridge Reserve in flood, 5 September 2010.

The Weekly Courier, 19 August 1909, page 33.

Hobler's Bridge

From 'Kibrook', Warra, Queensland, Mr F H Hobler writes: - A copy of the *Courier* of June 24 has been shown me with a picture of the new bridge near Hobler's Bridge, Launceston. I feel much interested in this picture, as my grandfather (George Hobler) built the original structure about the year 1832 to enable his produce to cross the river from his farm at Killafaddy. I may mention that George Hobler came to Tasmania in 1824 with his wife and three children, of whom my father, the late F H Hobler, was the eldest son. George Hobler brought some stud sheep, a thoroughbred mare, Moss Rose, from whom many winners sprang, a Devon cow for milk on the voyage, also some prize dogs.

I have in my possession all my grandfather's journals, kept from the day he left England until about 1870. He gives an account of his ten years in Tasmania, with all the experiences of a pioneer, including a visit from bushrangers at Killafaddy, besides many stirring events connected with the early history of the island. My present object, however, in writing to you is the name should really be pronounced with two b's. There is only one b, and the name really should be pronounced with full accent on the o, as in nobler, or Hobart. A search among the old records of births and deaths will confirm this.

Recent Publication by Member

Nic Haygarth and Simon Cubit, 'Paddy Hartnett: Tasmanian frontiersman', in THRA P&P, Vol 57, No 1, August 2010, pages 80-104.

Can You Help?

Convict Shepherds: Would anyone have access to early settlers' diaries or knowledge of the transference of the ancient art of traditional rams horn crook-making by convict shepherds in the early settlement of Van Diemen's Land? The most prolific and likely period would have been from the open camping of sheep circa 1810 onwards to the mid 19th century when the introduction of wire fences spread rapidly, and the cost of fencing was falling. However, shepherding persisted in remote northern areas of Australia until well into the twentieth century. There is no doubt that the art of crook-making was a transferred skill by the many convict shepherds who were assigned to the rapidly expanding sheep grazing properties of Tasmania.

Please contact Paul A. C. Richards by email pacrichards1@bigpond.com

Scottish Australia: A proposed exhibition of painting, sculpture, decorative arts and photography showing the broad influence of the Scots in the development of the Australian nation from the First Fleet to the Federation. Probable time-line is January to September 2014 in Victoria, ACT and Edinburgh. If you know of any suitable material for the exhibition, contact the curators : Dr Alison Inglis, Deputy Head of Art History, Melbourne University, phone 03 8344 7448 and Patricia Macdonald, curator *Exiles and Emigrants, epic journeys to Australia in the Victorian era*, phone 03 6989 0431.

Other Items and Events of Interest

National Book Council of Tasmania: The speaker for September is Marilyn Quirk, author of *Tasmania – An Island Far Away*. This is the story of many migrants who came to Tasmania seeking a new life. Starts at 1.15pm Wednesday 15 September, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library, Civic Square.

Making Museums Work: Displaying & Storing Heritage Textiles workshop with Judith Andrewartha at Oatlands on 22 September 10.00am-4.00pm. Spaces limited. Register by 15 September on 6233 7308.

George Town & Districts Historical Society: 7th Biennial Conference *Bricks & Mortar by the Water* will be held on Sunday 14 November 2010 9.00am for 9.30am start to 4.00pm at the York Cove Centre, George Town. Cost \$35.00 includes lunch, morning and afternoon teas. Speakers include Peter Cox, Jai Paterson, Anne Neale, Nic Haygarth, Marian Walker, Jenny Gill, Chlo Martin, Brad Williams and Chris Tassell. Their topics cover the heritage of the Tamar Valley from old port buildings, churches, iron mines, orcharding, fences and 'The Grove' to the Oatlands experience and the changing role of the National Trust. Contact Chlo Martin: PO Box 68, George Town, TAS 7253; phone 03 6382 1336; fax 03 6382 3352; email chlo@thegrovetas.com.

Australian Historical Association Regional Conference: *History at the Edge* is to be held on 4-8 July 2011 at the University of Tasmania, Inveresk Campus, Launceston. Historians are invited to participate in discussions and to present papers on various themes that involve *History at the Edge* in terms of geographical and cultural peripheries and in terms of conceptual and methodological innovations. See the AHA website www.theaha.org.au for more details. LHS members have been invited to present a panel of three papers and a chair. Please submit expressions of interest to the committee for consideration.

Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the 12 October 2010 LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **1 October 2010**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 November 2010** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.

Photographs by Marion Sargent.

LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Invites members and friends

To step back in time at a Christmas Barbecue

Hosted by the

Tasmanian Horse Drawn Vehicle Foundation Inc.

'Bonny Brae Farm', 42 Clarence Point Road, Clarence Point

Experience a unique Tasmanian collection of carriages, gigs, jinkers, carts, wagons, buggies, pagnells and drays right here in the beautiful Tamar Valley

Date: Sunday 28 November 2010

Time: 11.30am

BBQ lunch: 12.00 noon
Please **BYO** food and drink
The barbecue will be supplied

Afternoon tea: \$5.00 (Provided by the Foundation)

RSVP: By Tuesday 23 November
Daytime mobile: Gus Green 0408 355 561 or
Email: prossergreen@vision.net.au

Car pool: Contact Gus if you require transport