



Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 133

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

24th *The Examiner*-John West Memorial Lecture

Friday 9 March 2012 – 8.00pm at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania, Newnham



Professor Carmen Lawrence, *Development at any price? The case of Australia's Indigenous Heritage*

In assessing the state of protection of Indigenous heritage, the authors of the recent State of the Environment report concluded that individual decisions on assessment and development have resulted in the progressive, cumulative destruction of the Indigenous cultural resource. It is clear that Indigenous heritage is confronted by two main threats: the disruption of Aboriginal knowledge and culture; and the disturbance and destruction of sites due to urban expansion and resource extraction. Unless we re-weight the balance between economic activity and heritage and culture, priceless human assets will be lost forever and the wellbeing of Indigenous Australians will be compromised further.

Winthrop Professor Carmen Lawrence: Biography

After training as a research psychologist at the University of Western Australia and lecturing in a number of Australian universities, Dr Lawrence entered politics in 1986, serving at both State and Federal levels for 21 years. At various times she was WA Minister for Education and Aboriginal Affairs, and was the first woman Premier and Treasurer of a State government. She moved to Federal politics in 1994 when elected as Member for Fremantle. There she was appointed Minister for Health and Human Services, and Minister assisting the Prime Minister on the Status of Women. She held various portfolios while in Opposition, including Indigenous Affairs, Environment, Industry and Innovation, and was elected national President of the Labor Party in 2004. She retired from politics in 2007. Presently, Dr Lawrence is Director of the Centre for the Study of Social Change in the School of Psychology at the University of Western Australia and Chair of the Australian Heritage Council.

All welcome, free admission



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

Membership Renewals

Annual subscriptions for the Launceston Historical Society Inc. were due on 31 January 2012. Please complete the enclosed form and return to the treasurer, Carol Fuller, at the next meeting or post to:

Treasurer, Launceston Historical Society
PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

February Talk

Sunday 19 February 2012 – 2.30pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

Jai Paterson, *Punching Above Their Weight: Tasmanians in New Zealand 1855-1875*

New Zealand was no exception to the rule that a new and growing colony must obtain its first professional men from somewhere else, but what largely seems to have been forgotten is that Tasmanians took up New Zealand's call in droves, especially to the South Island – and there is neither a convict nor a gold miner among the people discussed in this paper. Seventy families have been researched for this study, from names that appear in a bundle of letters in the QVMAG's archives – letters that begin in Longford and Launceston, and end in New Zealand.

Currently Jai Paterson is a PhD student at the University of Tasmania, researching why so many Tasmanians crossed the Tasman Sea in the mid-nineteenth century – an interest piqued by her own background as an erstwhile New Zealander. A museum professional, Jai most recently worked as a Roving Curator for Arts Tasmania. She also has published *Knights of the Road, The Commercial Travellers' Association of Tasmania* (2006) and *A Fortune May Be Made ... Launceston's 19th Century Breweries* (2007).



New Zealand's 'largest wooden building in the world'?
Launceston's architect, William Henry Clayton.
Courtesy of the Museum of Wellington.

Advance Notice of Activities

Launceston Historical Society meetings are held at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk, at 2.30pm, unless otherwise notified.

Saturday 21 April 2012: Annual General Meeting and Symposium, *Publishing and Printing in Launceston*

Sunday 20 May 2012: Dr Nic Haygarth, *Gustav Weindorfer: the Lenin of Tasmanian conservation*

Sunday 17 June 2012: Pugh Day Lecture, Prof. Barry Baker

Sunday 15 July 2012: Robert Warneke, *Sealing in Bass Strait*

Sunday 19 August 2012: Craig Joel, *John Montagu and Sir John Franklin*

Sunday 16 September 2012: Eleanor (Den) Robin, *Cape Wickham Lighthouse*

Sunday 21 October 2012: Prof. John Mulvaney, *Archaeology in Tasmania*

Sunday 18 November 2012: To be advised

Wrapping up 2011

Holymans – 150 years

On 20 November 2011 Steve Radford presented an illustrated paper on the anniversary of the foundation of the Holyman shipping and aviation empire. Pictured here are from the left, **Bill Barrett**, (First Mate on the *Loatta*), **Steve Radford**, and **Ron Riley**. The last vessel to be built for the company was the *Mary Holyman* in 1971. Mr Riley was the pilot who conducted this ship out of the Tamar for the last time before it was sold overseas in 1987. A number of William Holyman's descendants were in the large audience. See *The Examiner* 19 November 2011, pages 8-9 for Alison Andrews' story *Transport dynasty 150 years in making*.



Christmas Function

On 4 December Richard Mulvaney, the Director of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, gave an interesting and informative presentation on the history and development of the QVMAG over the past 170 years. From the Launceston Mechanics' Institute (1842), to the Royal Park site (1891), the Inveresk railway yards development (2001) and the renovated art gallery at Royal Park (2011), the museum and art gallery have had a long, fascinating and sometimes challenging history. **Richard Mulvaney** is pictured on the left with LHS Secretary **Leonie Prevost**. Members provided a large spread of afternoon tea which was enjoyed by all.

Launceston Historical Society History Prize-Winners 2011

'Australian Women Building Our Nation'

GRADE 3: DIGITAL SECTION (COMPUTER GENERATED)

First Prize – Charlotte Shegog-Fisher & Brianna Whitmore, West Launceston Primary School, Topic – *Daisy May Bates*

Honourable Mention – Shajayia Cadman-Cannon, Mowbray Heights Primary School. Topic – *Dame Enid Lyons*

Honourable Mention – Jaymie Rattray, Mowbray Heights Primary School. Topic – *Cathy Freeman*

Honourable Mention – Dominic Grose & Jacob Horton, West Launceston Primary School. Topic – *Nancy Wake*

GRADE 3: HANDWRITTEN SECTION

First Prize – Bryley Jordan, West Launceston Primary School. Topic – *Caroline Chisholm*

Honourable Mention – Zahara Walker, Scotch Oakburn College. Topic – *Mary Gilmore*

Honourable Mention – Flynn Hynes, West Launceston Primary School. Topic – *Elizabeth Kenny*

GRADE 4: DIGITAL SECTION (COMPUTER GENERATED)

First Prize – Anneliese Gulliver, West Launceston Primary School. Topic – *May Gibbs*

Honourable Mention – Laura Brown, Mowbray Heights Primary School. Topic – *Dame Enid Lyons*

GRADE 4: HANDWRITTEN SECTION

First Prize – Keeley Williams, West Launceston Primary School. Topic – *Shirley Strickland*

GRADE 5: DIGITAL SECTION (COMPUTER GENERATED)

First Prize – Emily Dadson, Mowbray Heights Primary School. Topic – *Mary Reibey*

Honourable Mention – Mohiba Mohammadi, Mowbray Heights Primary School. Topic – *Leba Bovard*

Honourable Mention – Caoilainn O'Loughlin, Scotch Oakburn College. Topic – *Naomie O'Loughlin*

GRADE 5: HANDWRITTEN SECTION

First Prize – Tayla Handley, Riverside Primary School. Topic – *Dawn Fraser*

Honourable Mention – Jasmine Morris, Riverside Primary School. Topic – *Cathy Freeman*

Honourable Mention – Jessica Scolyer, Riverside Primary School. Topic – *Caroline Chisholm*

GRADE 6: DIGITAL SECTION (COMPUTER GENERATED)

First Prize – Nikita Targett, Mowbray Heights Primary School. Topic – *Dr Fiona Wood*

Honourable Mention – Kayley Reading, Mowbray Heights Primary School. Topic – *Dame Enid Lyons*

Honourable Mention – Mathew Scott, Mowbray Heights Primary School. Topic – *Jane McGrath*

ERIC & PATRICIA RATCLIFF PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AND PRESENTATION

WINNER – Anneliese Gulliver, Grade 4, West Launceston Primary School. Topic – *May Gibbs*

A total of \$775 was distributed amongst 21 students from four schools. Congratulations to everyone.

Macquarie 2011 Celebrations

Many events were held to celebrate the bicentenary of Governor Lachlan Macquarie's first visit to Van Diemen's Land in 1811. See the post event reports and photographs on the website: http://www.macquarie2011.com/html/post_event_reports.html



Peter Cox reading Macquarie's Journal at the Gorge.



Rod Cuthbert and Gus Green at 'The Retreat', Deviot.

Archaeology Group

Kerry Lodge

On 19 January 2012 eight members of our group visited the Kerry Lodge site. We concentrated on the lower house area and started by chain-sawing some dead tree branches. We then used a whipper snipper to cut the long grass from the foundations. In some areas members cut the grass by hand under the direction of archaeologist Angie McGowan. We found extensive stone foundations, a number of hand-made bricks and flat areas that might be garden or part of the building.

At lunch-time a surveyor arrived armed with a GPS. He located the footings, enabling an accurate plan to be prepared of the site. And he surveyed the footings on top of the hill, an area we had cleared on previous visits to Kerry Lodge.

Artefacts on the surface at the lower house site include china, window glass, bottle glass, animal bones and various pieces of metal including a stove door. Twenty-nine artefacts were recorded and photographed there.

The next step will be to prepare a survey plan, record the findings and put together a report – including the history – for both sites. The considerable information available will need to be checked thoroughly, and a search made for any additional details. Then it can be put together into a concise record. If any member is able to assist in this task, please get in touch with me. Then we can put it all together and publish the report for those who might be interested. This will be the finish of what we can do for this site without undertaking excavation work. Thanks to all those who have attended the site visits and a special thanks to Angie McGowan without whose expertise we would not be able to do what we have done.

We are also looking at a couple of new sites for the next project; but more on that later.

Our next meeting is at the Launceston Library at 1.00pm on Tuesday 28th February.

John Dent

Members' Column

Archaeology Group: The next meeting will be in the Phil Leonard Room at the Launceston LINC on 28 February 2012.

1842 Foundation Stories of Northern Tasmania: Congratulations to Associate Editor of *The Examiner* and LHS member Julian Burgess on the publication of this supplement on 22 November 2011. Several of our members contributed stories and research to this interesting and informative feature.

Dr Dianne Snowden: Congratulations to Dr Snowden on being appointed to the Chair of the Tasmanian Heritage Council for a three year term from 1 January 2012.

Barbara Valentine OAM: Congratulations to Barbara on being awarded an OAM in the Australia Day's Honour Roll for service to the community through the preservation of the history of Launceston, and to the museum and galleries sector.

Other Items and Events of Interest

Tasmanian Historical Research Association: Meetings are to be held at the Royal Society Room in the Custom House, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, starting at 8.00pm.

14 February 2012, Tony Brown, *The Younger Prout*; 13 March 2012, Eleanor Cave, *Botanical Field Trips*; 10 April, Kenneth Von Bibra, *The Reeds of Mount Pleasant*.

National Book Council: Guest speaker for the February meeting is Rosemary Peterswald, co-author of *Sea Dreams: Sailing the Western Mediterranean* and *Sea Dreams in the Adriatic ...* travel tales of sailing in their yacht the *Sea Dreams*. Wednesday, 15 February 2012, 1.15pm, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston LINC, Civic Square.

History Ride: The next Tamar Bicycle Users Group history ride led by Marion Sargent will start at the Roundhouse, Invermay Park, and traverse Ravenswood – Ribbon of Blue on Sunday 26 February 2012. Meet at 9.15am for a 9.30am start. Enquiries: phone 6331 4890 or email marionsargent@bigpond.com.

Annual Library Book Fair: featuring a great range of fiction, non-fiction, children's books and audio-visual materials at bargain prices. The next Friends of the Library Fair will be held at St Ailbe's Hall, Margaret Street, Launceston, on Saturday, 24 March 2012 (9.00am-1.00pm).

Launceston General Hospital Historical Committee: Medical History Seminar, *Commemorating the Community*. Speakers: John Addison on Henry Reed; Dan Huon on Arthur Leake; and Louise James on John Forward. To be held 2.00-3.30 pm on Sunday 25 March 2012 at the Lecture Theatre, LGH, level 2. RSVP by 23 March to Paul Richards, 6344 4241 or pacrichards@bigpond.com

Launceston Family Album: Photographs and brief biographies of over 1100 people who attended the Tasmanian International Exhibition 1891-92 is now on CD-Rom. It also includes photos of the Exhibition held at the Albert Hall. Available for purchase at the Launceston LINC for \$24.50.

Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the 13 March 2012 LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **1 March 2012**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 April 2012** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.