



Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 134

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

Tasmanians in New Zealand

On Sunday 19 February Jai Paterson enthralled the audience with her talk on Tasmanians in New Zealand from 1855-1875. She has a database of over 200 people, many from the Longford district, who moved across the Tasman during that time. Tasmanians contributed to the development of New Zealand and can claim many firsts in that country. John Joseph Woods composed the music for their national anthem, William Henry Clayton was the first and only colonial architect, and even the trout in the lakes and rivers came from Tasmania. We look forward to the publication of Jai's book *The Tasmanian History of New Zealand*.



Alison Rolleston and Jai Paterson.



Prof. Henry Reynolds and Dr Carmen Lawrence

***The Examiner*-John West Memorial Lecture**

Dr Carmen Lawrence delivered a thought-provoking lecture to almost 200 people at UTAS on Friday 9 March. Her topic, *Development at any price? The case of Australia's Indigenous Heritage*, stressed that the economically-driven mining and industrial developments in Australia that feed China's insatiable desire to produce useless 'stuff' destroys our national heritage and does not help our Indigenous people. The lecture will be placed on the LHS website; printed *Papers and Proceedings* will not be published this year. Carmen was introduced by Martin Gilmour, Editor of *The Examiner*, and Professor Henry Reynolds offered a vote of thanks. Next year we look forward to travel writer William Dalrymple presenting the John West lecture.

LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Membership Renewals

Annual subscriptions for the Launceston Historical Society were due on 31 January 2012. Thank you to those who have paid for another year of membership. As we will not be publishing *Papers & Proceedings* this year, those who have paid \$12.00 will be refunded that amount.

An amended form, without the P&P payment option, is enclosed with this printed newsletter and also is on the website: <http://www.launcestonhistory.org.au/pdf/apply.pdf>

If you are yet to pay, please return to the treasurer, Carol Fuller, at the next meeting, or post to:

Treasurer, Launceston Historical Society
PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Annual General Meeting and Seminar *Publishing in Launceston: Past & Present*

Saturday 21 April 2012 – 2.00-4.00pm at the Meeting Room, QVMAG Museum at Inveresk.

Peter Richardson, *Riding a tide of local history – Launceston Library as a small publisher, 1999-2010*

Starting with a loan of \$2000, Launceston Library, in partnership with its Friends of the Library group, produced eight books and a range of pictorial publications, as well as a highly successful website, all in a period of ten years. This paper traces the development of a publishing program aimed at promoting interest in, and creating better access to, our local history.

Peter was senior librarian at Launceston Library from 1998 until 2009. Now happily retired, he occupies himself by exploring Tasmania's criminal underbelly in the latter part of the nineteenth century, and is progressing slowly towards a PhD.

In 1999, Peter was the instigator of the Library's re-emergence as an active publishing house; and in his paper he is going to share some of his experiences as author, editor, promoter and distributor of the Library's published output over the past decade.

Jon Addison, talk and curator's tour of *The Convict Stain: Vice, Virtue & John West* exhibition.

Jon will present a short paper on John West and the newspaper conflicts of the anti-transportation campaign. West used the pages of *The Examiner* to promote the abolition of transportation while his main opponent, William Lushington Goodwin of the *Cornwall Chronicle*, printed some libellous accusations in support of the convict system.

Jon, the QVMAG Curator of History, will give a tour of the current exhibition. Then afternoon-tea will be served. The seminar is part of Australian Heritage Week: <http://heritage-week.govspace.gov.au>.

The 2012 AGM will be held before the seminar *Publishing in Launceston*. See separate notice of meeting which includes a nomination form for the committee.

Nominations are sought to fill all eleven positions on the Executive: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and seven Committee Members. Nominations should reach the Executive on or before Friday, 13 April 2012. Now is the time to join the Committee to help your Society run its active and vibrant program of talks and excursions.

A notice of motion to amend the Launceston Historical Society Constitution will be put to the members at the AGM to alter clause 5 (2) (a, b, c) Membership of the Association and clause 30 Financial Year:

5. (1) There shall be two classes of members, viz. ordinary members and honorary life members.

(2) A person who has applied for ordinary membership is eligible to become a member of the Association on payment of the annual subscription prescribed in, or fixed under, these rules.

An application for membership –

(a) shall be in writing by completing a membership form;

and

(b) shall be lodged with the Treasurer of the Association with the sum payable as the first year's subscription.

As soon as practicable after the receipt of a membership form and upon receipt of the sum payable, the new member's name shall be entered in a register of members to be kept by a committee member, whereupon he/she becomes a member of the Association.

30. The financial year of the Association is the period beginning on the 1st January in each calendar year, and ending on the 31st of December of the same year.

May Talk

Dr Nic Haygarth, *Gustav Weindorfer: the Lenin of Tasmanian conservation?*

Sunday 20 May 2012 – 2.30pm at the Meeting Room, QVMAG Museum at Inveresk.

Tasmanians like exotic, ascetic bushman figures to lead them towards ecological salvation. Gustav Weindorfer is a hallowed name in north-western Tasmania, in particular because of his vision for a Cradle Mountain National Park. Sometimes he has been depicted as a modern-day conservationist who values 'wilderness' only intrinsically, a judgment which ignores both economic reality and the prevalent thinking of his time.

Weindorfer was not a preservationist. He took a pragmatic view of nature, believing that flora, fauna and the environment were God-given for man to use as he saw fit. He used them to make a living. While Weindorfer was a keen amateur naturalist, he killed animals for food and to sell their furs. Had the timber industry not collapsed in 1921, he would have logged much of what today is called Weindorfers Forest.

As proprietors of Waldheim Chalet at Cradle Valley, Gustav and Kate Weindorfer followed other Tasmanian nature-based tourism operators. As a Tasmanian national park advocate, Gustav Weindorfer was contemporary with JW Beattie and William Crooke. Has his burial at Cradle Valley, rather than with his wife, turned him into a monument? Weindorfer's character and charisma, the apparent romance of his isolated mountain existence and a love of Cradle Mountain have prompted an annual pilgrimage to his grave which has spanned generations, having few parallels in Australian history.

Nic is a well-known freelance historian and writer.

Members' Column

New Members: The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Kathleen Brophy, Rod Howell, Allan Lane, Patricia Leonard, Donna May, Paul Richards and Alison Rolleston.

Archaeology Group: The next meeting will be in the Phil Leonard Room at the Launceston LINC on Tuesday 24 April 2012.

Papers & Proceedings: The 2011 P&P have been published. Extra copies are for sale at \$12.00 each.

Advance Notice of Activities

Launceston Historical Society meetings are held at the Meeting Room, QVMAG Museum at Inveresk, at 2.30pm, unless otherwise notified.

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, *Encounters in place*

Sunday 18 November 2012: Paul Johnston, *Henty House and 10 Murray Street*

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. 8 May 2012, Eldershaw Lecture (to be held in the Hobart Town Hall), Alison Alexander, *'Interfering woman': Jane Franklin and Van Diemen's Land Politics*; 12 June 2012, Robert Cox, *Black Tom Birch: Fact and Fiction*.

George Town & District Historical Society: The next two meetings for 2012 will be held at *The Grove*: 16 April, Wally Perkins, *The Korean War*; 21 May, Todd Hunter, *Innovation & Technology*.

QVMAG Museum: *The Convict Stain: Vice, Virtue & John West*. This exhibition tells the story of how Rev. John West brought about the end of transportation to Australia both by preaching from the pulpit and writing editorials for *The Examiner* and *Sydney Morning Herald*. The beginning of our national flag is traced from the Australasian League flag made by women in Launceston in 1851.

Launceston LINC: The VDL edition of Charles Dickens' *Pickwick Papers*, an act of piracy and a rare item of Australiana. Commemorating the 200th birthday of Charles Dickens, the display includes the 1838 edition published by Henry Dowling in Launceston.

National Book Council: Guest speaker for the April meeting is Bertram (Snow) Thomas, editor of *Henry Hellyer's observations: journals of life in the Tasmanian bush 1826-1827*. Wednesday, 18 April 2012, 1.15pm, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston LINC, Civic Square.

History Ride: The next Tamar Bicycle Users' Group history ride will be on Sunday 15 April 2012. Marion Sargent will lead a leisurely two hour bicycle tour along Rosevears Drive, stopping at a few places of historical interest, and for coffee. Meet opposite the Rosevears Hotel at 9.45am for a 10.00am start. Enquiries: phone 6331 4890 or email marionsargent@bigpond.com.

Heritage Education and Skills Centre – Oatlands: The 2012 Course Guide has been released: <http://centreforheritage.com.au/?q=node/11>

Heritage Act: The draft Bill is online. Heritage Tasmania is calling for submissions which close on 13 April: http://www.heritage.tas.gov.au/act_reform.html.

Community Heritage Grants: Close 4 May: <http://www.nla.gov.au/chg/index.html>.

Tamar River DVD: *Tamar, a Glittering Continuity* presented by Craig Rich, takes the viewer on a trip up the river Tamar in England, following the salmon on their way to spawn. He also looks at places of historical interest and wild life that is seldom seen. The DVDs can be ordered through Saltash Heritage. <http://www.saltash-heritage.org.uk>.

Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the 17 April 2012 LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **1 April 2012**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 May 2012** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.