



# Launceston Historical Society Inc

## Newsletter No 101

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

*"Bringing together people with an interest in history"*

### From The Editor's Desk

Welcome to our new newsletter and new committee for 2007-08. The Society's new president, Dr Marita Bardenhagen, is keen to involve more people in the activities of the Society. A new feature of the Newsletter is a Members' Column—all members are invited to contribute with book reviews, queries, letters, ideas and suggestions for speakers relating to the history of northern Tasmania, and in particular Launceston.

Next year we will celebrate our twentieth anniversary. Our mission statement, quoted above, is the inspiration for members to attend the monthly seminars, annual John West Memorial Lecture and Symposium.

Thank you to our retiring president, Anne Bartlett, who had been at the helm of the Society for eleven years. Thank you also to Dr John Morris and Dr Paul Richards, the retiring Treasurer and Correspondence Secretary respectively, who have given many years of service to the Society.

The new committee members and their responsibilities are listed later in this newsletter.

*If there is a **blue spot** on your newsletter it means that your subscription has not been paid. Please send your remittance as soon as possible to make sure that you receive the next newsletter. An orange membership renewal was included with the previous newsletter.*

Marion Sargent, Editor

### Rural Life in Northern Tasmania

The annual symposium, held on 21 April at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk, was a resounding success. Ivan Heazlewood gave an entertaining talk on Agricultural Shows, while Bill Dent reminisced about the country dances and other activities he experienced as a young lad. Nic Haygarth illustrated his presentation about circuses and travelling entertainers with advertisements, from Victorian era newspapers, such as the one pictured here. Iris Meek, John Morris and John Walker shared their childhood memories of growing up in rural Tasmania. Many people in the audience could relate to their stories and a lively discussion rounded off a wonderful afternoon.

POSITIVELY TWO DAYS ONLY!  
LAUNCESTON.  
SATURDAY, MARCH 31. MONDAY, APRIL 2.  
PERFORMANCES AFTERNOON AND NIGHT.  
The Greatest Exhibition of any Age or Country.

COOPER, BAILEY, & Co.'s  
Great International Allied Shows.  
**CIRCUS AND MENAGERIE!**  
Largest, best, and most complete! Thousands delighted daily! It has no Equal! All is New! Nought is Old! The entire Australian Field has ground it on the highest terms.

A MULTITUDE OF MOVING TENTS,  
Containing rare and curious wonders. A  
LIVING HIPPOPOTAMUS!  
Captured in the White Nile River, and placed in the Menagerie of the Great International Menagerie of the Circus.

A GIANT GIRAFFE — 20 FEET HIGH!  
JAGUARS,  
LEOPARDS,  
BEARS,  
HYENAS,  
ROYAL  
BENGAL and  
BRAZILIAN  
TIGERS,  
UNTAMEABLE  
ZEBRAS,  
HORNSD  
HORSES,  
A DROVE OF ARABIAN and  
EASTRIAN CAMELS,  
AFRICAN, ASIATIC, and  
AMERICAN LIONS,  
A HERD OF SIX ELEPHANTS  
Following all varieties known to the  
Naturalist,  
BABY LIONS,  
A MULTITUDE OF MONKEYS,  
BEAUTIFUL HORSES,  
LILLIPUTIAN PONIES,  
A COLONY OF ALASKA SEA  
LIONS.

Wonders of Nature in Countless Numbers and Variety.  
OPPORTUNITIES NEVER BEFORE PRESENTED.

THE CIRCUS DEPARTMENT  
Is the Largest and Best ever organized.  
EVERY PREPARATION A STAR SPECIALIST!  
The Greatest array of Riders, Acrobats, Athletes, Turners, Tumblers, Gymnasts,  
Violins, Horizontal Bar Performers, Troupe Performers, etc., ever assembled  
beneath canvas.

FIVE FUNNY CLOWNS.  
JAMES ROBINSON,  
THE CHAMPION HARE-BACK RIDER OF THE WORLD,  
Who will positively appear at each Exhibition, has rendered his name famous in  
connection with aerial history.  
The Performance given by this Unrivalled Company is the Greatest ever witnessed.

Launceston Examiner 27 March 1877

## LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President	Marita Bardenhagen	6334 4490
Vice-President	Jenny Gill	6331 1150
Minute Secretary	Ross Smith	
Correspondence Secretary	Jai Paterson	
Treasurer	Carol Fuller	6331 1558

All correspondence should be sent to: PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Society Website: [www.elaunceston.com/launcestonhistory](http://www.elaunceston.com/launcestonhistory) (A copy of this newsletter can be found on this site)

## May Seminar

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

### **Peter Brown: The Mole Creek Track**

*Westward Ho!*

*The leading citizens of Launceston are called to a monster meeting at Sutton's Coffee Palace on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1896. The subject is the pressing need to form communications between the populated regions of Tasmanian and the metalliferous regions on the West Coast.*

*A track linking the terminus of the Chudleigh railway at Mole Creek will draw upon the produce of the north and its benefits will be felt in many farms and businesses in our region. When the track is open, it will be evident in no long time that the final iron link of the chain of railways from Launceston to the West Coast must be made.*

*It is the opinion of those on the mining fields that trade and communications should be with the North and not the capital. Our southern colleagues have the ear of Government and they propose a track to take more trade from our region. Men with knowledge of this region state that their track will cross mountainous country that lies under snow and ice for scores of miles for many months of the year. The country between Mole Creek and the western mining fields is known to many prospectors who maintain that such a route lies over good country and that the difficulties of track, or light railway, construction will not be great. Indeed many minerals have been located along the route and rich mines languish for want of an outlet.*

*The attention of our normally industrious citizens has not been upon this great opportunity and it is time to put our needs for a track from Mole Creek to the mining districts in the vicinity of Mount Reid most forcefully to Government.*

The Mole Creek Track was constructed in 1898 and 1899 but failed to live up to the great expectations placed upon it. Trains do not transport bushwalkers along the Overland Track as might have been the case. However, the Mole Creek Track, albeit known as the Innes Track, has been an important part of the development of Tasmania's premier walking track.

The subject of the talk is: reasons for the construction of the track, the people who surveyed it and made it, and the fate that befell it.

**Peter Brown** has a long career in Metallurgy in steel, lead and zinc and manganese smelting. A career move to Tasmania in the 1980s led to an interest in bushwalking in the Tasmanian highlands. His curiosity was taken by a line of moss-covered stakes leading west over a trackless plain near Barn Bluff, south of Cradle Mountain. Following these stakes has led to studies in Cultural Resource Management at Charles Sturt University and to undertaking a research Masters at the University of Tasmania into the Mole Creek Track. They have also led deeper into the cultural heritage of the wilderness between Mole Creek and Rosebery, the route of the track. The informal historical networks in Tasmania have produced many great insights and friendships.

## Other May Events

Dr Stefan Petrow, editor of *Lawless Harvests, or God Save the Judges*, by the late Professor Alex Castles, will be the next speaker at the **National Book Council of Tasmania** meeting in the Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library, 16 May 2007, at 1.15pm. *Lawless Harvests, or God Save the Judges* is an entertaining account of the administration of justice in Van Diemen's Land and the development of the colony's legal system through the reign of seven Lieutenant-governors, from 1808 to 1855.

**University of Tasmania at Launceston**, Seminar, *Writing the biography of Roderic O'Connor*, Andrew Gregg, Room L142, Arts Building, UTAS, Newnham, 17 May 2007, 5.00pm. [tdunning@utas.edu.au](mailto:tdunning@utas.edu.au)

**National Archaeology Week**, *The Derwent Hulks – A unique Tasmanian archaeological resource*, Glenorchy Library, 18 May 2007, 7.00pm. [www.archaeologyweek.com](http://www.archaeologyweek.com)

**Launceston Library Tours**. To celebrate Library & Information Week, discover Launceston Library's hidden treasures. Join library staff for a tour of the Lending, Reference and Stack areas. Meet in the foyer, 24 May 2007, 10.00am, 11.00am or 12 noon. Bookings: 6336 2625.

**At the QVMAG: John Glover and His Books** to 20 May 2007 at Inveresk. Along with some of John Glover's paintings, the QVMAG is fortunate to have in its Library, a number of books owned by Glover and later donated to the Evandale Subscription Library. This exhibition explores the questions: What influence did these books have on Glover's life, his behaviour and artistic endeavours? What role did the Evandale Subscription Library (and Glover's donation to it) play in colonial life and reading in Tasmania?

**Flowers of Tasmania: the botanical art of Margaret Stones and William Buelow Gould** to 13 May 2007 at Inveresk is an examination of the botanical. Two artists, Margaret Stones and William Buelow Gould, separated by some 130 years of time and circumstance, share an exquisite gift for documenting the scientific and aesthetic beauty of native flora. Their works are for the first time exhibited alongside each other in a major exhibition that in particular, highlights the endemic range of Tasmanian species; a range that Stones drew by design and Gould, by fortuitous accident.

## Recent Publications by Members

**Jai Paterson's *Stories of William Street: J Boag & Son's Esk Brewery side of William Street in 1898: a social history***, with drawings by Simon Barnard (March 2005) is now available in the Launceston Local Studies Library. It is an account of the buildings and people at the end of the nineteenth century, just before the Esk Brewery began its expansion along the street. Jai gave an illustrated talk on the topic at our February 2005 meeting.

**Keith Adkins' 'Scottish enlightenment ideals and traditions in colonial Tasmania'** is published in the most recent issue of *Tasmanian Historical Studies*, vol. 11, 2006. The focus of his article is Scottish-born Reverend Robert Russell who founded the subscription library and schoolhouse and built St Andrew's Presbyterian Church at Evandale.

## WAY BACK WHEN ... People Places and Events

The organising committee is seeking members to contribute stories about early pioneers or events in their family or district of Northern Tasmania. All articles should be between 500 and 600 words in length.

For further information and details on submitting articles, please contact Anne Bartlett, chairman of co-ordinating committee, (phone 6344 5258) or John Dent (6331 8317). Since the previous newsletter members have contributed the following articles to this series in *The Examiner*:

- Peter Cox: Brawls and fisticuffs marked first election - *The Examiner*, 31 March 2007, p. 47.
- Ivan Heazlewood: Cressy the centre of early agriculture - *The Examiner*, 7 April 2007, p. 60.
- Ivan Heazlewood: Toosey turns around company's fortunes - *The Examiner*, 14 April 2007, p. 33.
- Peter Cox: Nile Hunt and annual event - *The Examiner*, 21 April 2007, p. 33.
- Jai Patterson: Chitty brothers in hotel business - *The Examiner*, 28 April 2007, p. 31.
- Jan Critchett: Preachers spread the word - *The Examiner*, 5 May 2007, p. 33.

# THE FULLER PAPERS

The committee is seeking members to research particular people and places mentioned in the Fuller Papers held at the Launceston Library. Barbara Valentine, Gwenda Webb and Anne Bartlett have been steadily working on this project for some years and the LHS will be publishing the final manuscript upon completion. Details of outstanding topics will be published in the next newsletter. If you are interested and feel you would like to contribute please contact us.

## Other Items and Events of Interest

The latest **THRA Papers and Proceedings** (Vol 54, No 1, April 2007) includes papers by Lindsay Whitham on the Granville Tram, Joanna Richardson's introduction to Mary Morton Allport and her journals and Alison Alexander's Convicts and Tasmania in the nineteenth century. There is also a book review by Dan Sprod of *Leichardt's Expeditioners: In the Australian Wilderness 1844-1845*. The journal is available to be read by members at our monthly seminars.

**Unlock Tasmania's Great Colonial Houses:** Take advantage of the new Discovery Pass that is now available at three of northern Tasmania's grand homes: 'Clarendon', the spectacular National Trust property near Evandale; 'Entally Estate' at Hadspen; and 'Woolmers Estate' at Longford.

**Edmund Morris Miller 1881-1964:** Philosopher, psychologist, librarian, bibliographer and administrator. An exhibition of materials from the University of Tasmania Special and Rare Materials Collection, the University Fine Arts collection and the School of Psychology. Morris Miller Library, UTAS, Hobart, March – June 2007.

**Lessons of the Past: Applications of History for Today's Threats: The Inaugural Terrorism History Conference,** International Affairs Conference Centre, Canberra, 14 June 2007. Enquiries: Dr Sean Brawley: [s.brawley@unsw.edu.au](mailto:s.brawley@unsw.edu.au)

**Cultural Context Conference: National Trust Heritage Festival,** National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill Sydney, 15 June 2007. Enquiries: [conference@nsw.nationaltrust.org.au](mailto:conference@nsw.nationaltrust.org.au); <http://www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au>

**Imperial Curiosity: Objects, Representations, Knowledges, Conference,** University of Tasmania, 27-29 June 2007 <http://www.utas.edu.au/arts/imperialcuriosity>

**2nd Asian Australian Identities Conference,** Melbourne, 28-30 June 2007. Enquiries: [tseen.khoo@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:tseen.khoo@arts.monash.edu.au) or [jacqueline.lo@anu.edu.au](mailto:jacqueline.lo@anu.edu.au)

**The Colonial Present: Australian Writing for the 21st Century, Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Australian Literature,** The University of Queensland, 1-4 July 2007. [www.asc.uq.edu.au/asal](http://www.asc.uq.edu.au/asal)

**Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine, Tenth Biennial Conference: Medicine In Context,** Australian National University, Canberra, 3-6 July 2007. [www.anzshmconf.com.au](http://www.anzshmconf.com.au). Enquiries: [Anthea.Hyslop@anu.edu.au](mailto:Anthea.Hyslop@anu.edu.au)

**Professional Historians Association Regional Mini-Conference, Public History in the Public Domain,** Australian National University, Canberra, 7 July 2007. <http://www.phansw.org.au/pro-dev.html>

**Australian Historical Association, 2007 Regional Conference: Engaging Histories,** Armidale, NSW, 23-26 September 2007. Enquiries: Dr Erin Ihde and Dr Frank Bongiorno (Conv), [confco@une.edu.au](mailto:confco@une.edu.au)

**Oral History Association of Australia (Qld Inc.), 2007 National Conference: Old Stories New Ways,** Indooroopilly, Brisbane, 27-30 September, 2007. [www.ohaqlld.org.au](http://www.ohaqlld.org.au)

***Moving Cultures, Shifting Identities: a conference about migration, connection, heritage and cultural memory***, Flinders University, Adelaide, 3-5 December 2007.  
<http://fhrc.flinders.edu.au/events/movingcultures.html>

**9th Australasian Urban History / Planning History Conference: *Sea Change? Historical responses to new and renewed urban landscapes***, University of the Sunshine Coast, February 2008. Formal call for abstracts to come. Enquiries: [cmconvi@usc.edu.au](mailto:cmconvi@usc.edu.au)

**Voluntary Action History Society**, Third International Research Conference, University of Liverpool, 16-18 July 2008. Proposals for papers are invited on any aspect of history of charity, voluntary organisations and volunteering. Deadline 1 December 2007. [www.vahs.org.uk](http://www.vahs.org.uk)

**Tasmanian Historical Studies Call for papers:** THS is conducting a call for articles for its 2007 edition. These should have some Tasmanian content and be written according to scholarly conventions. The journal is fully refereed. If you have any queries please contact Dr Caroline Evans, School of History and Classics, on 6226 2303 or email [Caroline.Evans@utas.edu.au](mailto:Caroline.Evans@utas.edu.au)

**Cockington Green Gardens** is a display of miniature buildings and gardens at 11 Gold Creek Road, Nicholls ACT. The owners are seeking ideas of interesting and historically significant Australian houses to expand their award winning tourist enterprise. Contact Doug or Mark Sarah on 02 6230 2273 or [info@cockingtongreen.com.au](mailto:info@cockingtongreen.com.au). Website: [www.cockingtongreen.com.au](http://www.cockingtongreen.com.au).

## Other Historical Societies & Organisations in North East Tasmania

Evandale History Society:	<a href="mailto:longford@tco.asn.au">longford@tco.asn.au</a>
Friends of the Library (Launceston):	<a href="mailto:Launceston.Library@education.tas.gov.au">Launceston.Library@education.tas.gov.au</a>
Furneaux Historical Research Association:	<a href="mailto:furneauxmuseum@hotmail.com">furneauxmuseum@hotmail.com</a>
George Town and District Historical Society:	<a href="http://www.tco.asn.au/oac/community_history">www.tco.asn.au/oac/community_history</a>
Lilydale History Group:	<a href="http://www.lilydaletas.net/comgrps/history">www.lilydaletas.net/comgrps/history</a>
Oral History Association Australia (Tasmania):	<a href="mailto:mandjcassidy@gmail.com">mandjcassidy@gmail.com</a>
Ringarooma Community Cultural & Heritage Assoc:	<a href="mailto:rwardlaw@vision.net.au">rwardlaw@vision.net.au</a>
St Helens History Room:	<a href="http://www.sthelens.tco.asn.au/community/history">http://www.sthelens.tco.asn.au/community/history</a>
Tasmanian Family History Society:	<a href="http://users.bigpond.com/lntasfh">http://users.bigpond.com/lntasfh</a>
West Tamar Historical Society:	<a href="mailto:beaconsfield@tco.asn.au">beaconsfield@tco.asn.au</a>
Westbury Historical Society:	<a href="http://westburyhistorical.org.au/">http://westburyhistorical.org.au/</a>

## Funding Opportunities

**National Library of Australia - Community Heritage Grants** - max \$15,000 - closes 8 June 2007. Aims to preserve and provide access to nationally significant Australian cultural heritage material held by community groups across the country by providing cash grants of up to \$15,000. Contact Details: The Coordinator Public Programs Division National Library of Australia ☐ Telephone (02) 6262 1147  
☐ Website: [www.nla.gov.au](http://www.nla.gov.au)

**The Tasmanian Community Fund** Grant Round 15 will open Saturday 14 July and close Thursday 30 August 2007.

## Launceston Historical Society Committee Members

President	Marita Bardenhagen
Vice-President	Jenny Gill
Treasurer	Carol Fuller
Minute Secretary	Ross Smith
Correspondence Secretary	Jai Paterson
Newsletter Editor	Marion Sargent
Publicity Officer	Jill Cassidy
Publication Committee	Nic Haygarth
Way Back When Coordinator	Anne Bartlett
Committee Member	Rosalie Kelly
Committee Member	John Dent
Co-opted Committee Members	
History Prize	Jillian Koshin
Catering Coordinator	Barbara Valentine

### Members' Column

**Profile of Launceston Historical Society President Marita Bardenhagen:** Born in Launceston and brought up in Hydro towns around Tasmania, she now lives in Launceston with her husband Alex and four children, Rachelle, Jessie, Brigid and David. A History graduate of the University of Tasmania and a professional historian, she is currently employed part-time as a researcher for Heritage Tasmania, Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment. She and colleagues Tim Jetson and Nic Haygarth have been contracted recently also to write a history of Rural Youth in Tasmania. Marita considers herself a social historian and a champion of "the ordinary" which is often not easily found in documents and seldom celebrated. Her research has included a study of the roles of Bush Nurses in Tasmania and she is currently working on a book "*Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Lives*" which will complement the exhibition of the same name currently travelling Tasmania. Her aim is to bring the new found knowledge back to the individuals and communities that created that history.



Past research interests have included searching for her family roots and placing these into context. Recently forging research links with colleagues in North America to explore the roles of Empire in women's history, Marita believes that comparative historical research across cultures and times brings new richness to historical understanding. Marita has a passion for local history and heritage and believes that the Launceston Historical Society has a role to play in the community to educate and foster community understanding of our past through original research and lively discussion.

Building on the work of past Presidents, she hopes her time as President will see northern groups with an interest in history interact and share ideas. Marita hopes the Newsletter will provide a vehicle for member comment and information about historical activities and opportunities.

### Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the next LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **30 May 2007**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **30 May 2007**. Member profiles (max 300 words) including research interests are particularly welcome. Black and white photographs for publication are also encouraged.