



Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 103

August 2007

ISSN 1036-7950

PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

From the Editor's Desk

Aviation in Northern Tasmania 1914-1946

The talk by Lindsay Millar on Aviation in Northern Tasmania 1914-1946 was delivered to a full house on 17 June 2007. Interest in the history of aircraft and the Western Junction aerodrome, as well as *The Examiner's* article in "The Big Weekend" section on Friday 15 June, page 46, were a boost to numbers. Another excellent article with a photo of Lindsay was published in the newspaper on 18 June 2007, page 5.



Lindsay Millar, Roger Valentine and Steve Radford, enjoying a cuppa after the talk. Photo: M Sargent



Chris Binks is pictured with Madge Holroyd, a former teaching colleague. Photo: M Sargent

Tasmanians and the land

On 15 July Chris Binks presented a thought-provoking talk on the relationship Tasmanian people – both Aboriginal and European colonists – have with the land. He demonstrated how humans have shaped the landscape for thousands of years. However, since European colonisation, many people have at once both loved the island, but taken from it with little regard to the long term consequences of their actions.

Marion Sargent, editor

LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President	Marita Bardenhagen	6334 4490
Vice-President	Jenny Gill	6331 1150
Minute Secretary	Ross Smith	
Correspondence Secretary	Jai Paterson	0417 915 462
Treasurer	Carol Fuller	6331 1558

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

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

August Talk

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

John Paull: The perils of pointing the finger: a lesson for Dr Haygarth

John Paull is a consultant anaesthetist in Launceston and came to this town from mad Melbourne in early 1999, encouraged by his Tasmanian wife, Denise. He will retire at the end of September and devote himself to gardening and writing a book about the amazing Launcestonian, Dr William Russ Pugh MD. Any information from those historians or genealogists who might be conducting parallel or intersecting research would be welcomed and acknowledged.

William Russ Pugh, who was probably the first person in Australia to administer ether for a surgical operation in May 1847, was involved in several court cases in Launceston, Van Diemen's Land, in 1842 and 1843. Two of the most dramatic cases ensued after a young doctor, Burton George Haygarth, a recent arrival in the colony, was persuaded to accuse Pugh of manslaughter. Because of Pugh's standing in Launceston the cases attracted enormous public attention and support for Pugh. The outcome for Dr Haygarth was very unpleasant and not something which he had anticipated.

September Talk – note change of date

Sunday 23 September – 2.30 pm at the Auditorium, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

Thomas Gunn: Burials at Sea

Thomas Gunn was born and raised in Launceston and has held a deep interest in history from a young age. He is currently employed as a Research Officer at the Launceston Church Grammar School and a tutor in first year History at the University of Tasmania. He has almost completed his doctorate on the impact of convicts on inter-colonial relations. He also presents a popular fortnightly session on ABC Radio on the Thursday Drive program which looks at a broad range of local history topics, from sport and bakeries through to theatres and cemeteries. In 2005 Thomas initiated the Low Head Bicentennial Conference that has become an annual event. It presents historical and social topics that have a connection to the lower Tamar area.

The Burials at Sea paper looks at the history, customs and superstitions of the practice from the Vikings and Arabs through to the Royal Navy and down to modern times, and how, in modern Australia, it has become bound up in bureaucratic paperwork. Today's funeral businesses perform mainly cremations with actual interment in steady decline. Yet some people still prefer the traditional burial at sea, despite the paperwork and the costs, which can be considerable. This talk will look at some of the reasons why people choose to go this way and some of the problems they face.

Advance Notice of Talks

21 October – Eric Ratcliff: Back street architecture in Launceston

18 November – Michael Roe: The wreck of the convict transport ship *George III*

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).

- Gill Morris: Rum, sugar trader's voyage to success – *The Examiner*, 9 June 2007, p. 35.
- Lorraine Wootton: Depot for the infirm – *The Examiner*, 16 June 2007, p. 39.
- Lorraine Wootton: Last days for the older convicts – *The Examiner*, 23 June 2007, p. 43.
- Sue McClarron: Grand old home with many stories to tell – *The Examiner*, 30 June 2007, p. 33.
- Irene Schaffer: From convict to respected landowner – *The Examiner*, 7 July 2007, p. 45.
- Peter Cox: Low Head was country's first pilot station – *The Examiner*, 14 July 2007, page 41.
- Catherine Pearce: Pirates' daring escape on the *Venus* – *The Examiner*, 21 July 2007, page 45.
- Jai Paterson: Railway banner unfurled in marches – *The Examiner* 28 July 2007, page 43

Recent Publications by Members

John D Paull, **The perils of pointing the finger: a lesson for Dr Haygarth**, in *Anaesthesia and Intensive Care*, Vol. 35, Supplement 1, June 2007, pp 32-36. Also in the same journal, **William Russ Pugh's qualifications**, pp 45-46.

Peter Richardson (editor), **On the Tide 3: more stories of the Tamar**, Several LHS members have contributed stories to the final book in this popular series published by the Launceston Library and FOLL: Marita Bardenhagen, Joe Bramble, Alison Green, Anne Green, Gus Green, Nic Haygarth, Jillian Koshin, Alma McKay, Jai Paterson, Angela Prosser-Green, Paul Richards, Marion Sargent, John Taylor and Barbara Valentine. Copies are available for sale at the Launceston Library and bookshops for \$34.95.

Kim Simpson and Linda Clark, **Stitches in time: Convict garb in the colony**, in *Tasmania 40 Degrees South*, Issue 45, Winter 2007, pp 51-53.

Paul A C Richards and John C Stewart, **Goitre monitor: History of iodine deficiency in Tasmania**, available from Myola House of Publishing, 397 Wellington St, South Launceston for \$45.00.

Members' Column



Hi, I am Carol Fuller your new treasurer.

I recently retired from my position as Assistant Principal at Exeter Primary School. Although I graduated from UTAS with Ancient Civilizations as my major subject and wrote my thesis on Teaching Matriculation Ancient History, I only had the opportunity to teach Ancient History for two years before I left Tasmania to travel overseas. On my return in the early 70s I inherited Jill Cassidy's Social Science classes at Brooks High school, so Jill and I go way back. Since then I have taught many subjects from Kinder to Grade 12 including English, Life Skills, Home Economics, Work Studies to name a few, but I never managed to return to my main discipline of choice.

Perhaps my association and fascination with history stems from my experiences as a migrant child. Leaving family and early childhood friends in the north of England (Yorkshire) and travelling to the far ends of the world (Smithton) heightened my strong sense and appreciation of 'what had gone before'. This is somewhat of a family trait since my brother Jeff Jennings is also a dabbler in history. Some of you may have read his historical publications, "Scott's Country" about the NE of Tasmania and "The History of Bridport".

At an early age I became the family historian, sorting through the boxes of photographs my parents brought with them to Australia, and arranging them so that relationships and events of the family a long way away were not lost or forgotten. My most treasured possession is an audiotape that my father made just before he died. He borrowed the photo albums and made a tape explaining for posterity the names, relationships and details of the people and events captured in the photos. I am also an avid keeper of records and items from the past because how else will those who come after me understand about life, our family and achievements?

Although I have lived and worked in many places, including London and Melbourne, I cannot think of a better place for a historically minded person to live than Launceston. I believe if one is really and actively interested in history then we are very lucky to belong to such a city which surrounds us at every turn with such rich, historical materials as well as all the benefits of modern life minus the problems.

I don't remember how I became a treasurer type person! I was responsible for staffing, budgets, timetables and building development at Launceston College for several years as Assistant Principal Administration. I think I picked up some bean counting skills there. I went on to be the treasurer for the Zonta Club of Launceston for 6 years and learned even more about keeping accounts and dealing with bank statements. As your treasurer I hope that I can bring some computing skills to bear so that the Historical Society's books can continue in the very healthy state that Dr Morris has left them.



Rosalie Kelly

Recently married and new to Tasmania, my husband and I moved to the Launceston area from Melbourne in January. I have completed a Bachelors degree studying anthropology and archaeology as well as postgraduate study in archaeology and museum studies.

I have worked at Museum Victoria in different roles within the Indigenous Cultures department including Relocation Officer and Assistant Collections Manager. During this time I have catalogued ethnographic, manuscript and photographic material from the collections of Donald Thomson (his photographs featured in the film Ten Canoes) and George Augustus Robinson.

Other experiences have included time as Assistant Registrar at the Point Cook RAAF museum as well as at the National Gallery of Victoria where I worked as the Locations Controller during a major relocation to the re-developed St Kilda Road site.

My interests include Australian history, learning to play the violin and long distance running. I have been granted a Research Fellowship through the State Library where I am conducting part time research on the Association Collection that will culminate in the display of a selection of books later this year at the Launceston Library.

I am enjoying being a member of the LHS, which provides an opportunity to meet a range of people and continue to grow my knowledge of Northern Tasmanian History.

New Members

The President and Executive would like to welcome the following as members of the Society:

Tina Curtis, Elvin Fist, Shane How, Patricia Hume, Mary McRae, Rick & Leonie Prevost, Marianne Punshon, Kim Simpson and Keith Sykes.

Fuller Papers

The following is an example of the information that has been collated for the Fuller Papers project, which has been compiled by Barbara Valentine on **James Joyce** (Pages 52 and 78).

James Joyce, a twenty-one year old tailor, arrived in Hobart on 29 August 1832 on the *Lord William Bentinck* with a seven year sentence for larceny.

James Joyce applied to marry Sophia Green (free) in December 1837, but the marriage was not registered.

A son, James Christopher, was born to James, a tailor, and Mary Joyce on 25 December 1839 at Launceston. (No marriage on the TPI) When Alfred William was born on 4 September 1842, Mary's maiden name was given as Casey. Several more children were added to the family, the last being another Alfred William, born on 6 June 1863 to James, tailor of Charles Street, and Mary (formerly Casey) Joyce.

James Joyce, tailor, voted for Richard Dry at the 1851 Legislative Council election.

According to the 1856 electoral roll James Joyce occupied a house in Charles Street.

The last record found for James Joyce was the son's birth in 1863.

(James Joyce, labourer, died in Hobart in 1886; James Joyce, farmer of Bridgenorth, died in 1887; and James Joyce, labourer, died in Launceston in 1888.)

References:

CON 31/24, 18/12; AOT convict permissions to marry; RGD 32/1840/1007; RGD 33/1842/1128; RGD 33/1863/243; *Launceston Examiner* 8 November 1851; M & B Bissett, *Index to the Launceston Examiner: electoral roll 1856* (Launceston, 2002); RGD 35/1886/281, RGD 35/1887/11128, 35/1888/320.

Catherine Pearce has supplied the following information: James Joyce, tailor, who was living in York Street in 1848, was born 17 July 1810, in St Leonard's Parish, Shoreditch, Middlesex, England. In 1838 James married Mary Casey, a nursery maid from County Cork, Ireland, at his residence in Elizabeth Street, Launceston. James Joyce died on 21 March 1887, aged 77 years, at his farm "Waltham Park" Bridgenorth, and was buried in St Matthias' Churchyard, Windermere.

Exchange Journals

The following journals are available for members to read at the next meeting:

- Channel Heritage Museum, *Newsletter*
- Devonport Maritime Museum and Historical Society, *Time & Tide*
- George Town and District Historical Society, *Newsletter*
- National Book Council of Tasmania, speaker notice
- National Trust Magazine
- Royal Historical Society of Victoria, *History News*
- Tasmanian Historical Research Association, *Newsletter*
- Trust News

Other Items and Events of Interest

Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Lives, Marita Bardenhagen's Bush Nursing exhibition, will be at the Huon Community and Health Centre, 79 Sale St, Huonville, 6 August – 1 September 2007 and at the Oatlands Community Health Centre, 1 September – 30 September 2007.

The National Book Council of Tasmania speaker for August is Jeannette Hyland, author of *Maids, masters and magistrates: Twenty women of the convict ship 'New Grove'*. 1.15pm, Wednesday, 15 August 2007, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library, Civic Square, Launceston.

The 1790s: An International Symposium, British Enlightenment Research Network (BERN), venue UTAS Cradle Coast Campus, 8 September 2007. Enquiries: Lyn Richards, School of History & Classics, phone 6226 2392, Lyn.Richards@utas.edu.au.

National Trust of Australia (Tasmania): Dr Hardy Wilson Winter Concerts – Wayne and Jacqui Madden of the Kepler Ensemble and Kent Furmage on the piano. 2.30pm, Sunday, 9 September 2007, Clarendon, via Evandale. Phone 6398 6220.

Westbury History Faire will be held on Saturday 15 September 2007.

The National Book Council of Tasmania speaker for September is Glyn Roberts, author of *Metal mining in Tasmania*. 1.15pm, Wednesday 19 September 2007, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library, Civic Square, Launceston.

George Town and District Historical Society meetings: Monday 20 August, Show and Tell Night; Monday 17 September, Bruce Bensemam 'The wreck of the Sydney Cove'; Saturday 7 October, Excursion to Auburn; Monday 19 November, Tales of the Depression Years.

Tamar Tidings, written by Stella Kent, and directed by Peter Hammond and Robert Lewis. See the history of the Tamar Valley come to life in an innovative theatre production performed on the Tamar River itself. 7.30 pm, 29 October – 14 November 2007.

Local History Conference: *Defending the Colony: the Military in Tasmania, 1803 to the present*. The Coal River Valley Historical Society will be holding this year's biennial conference of Tasmanian historical societies at Richmond. 2-4 November 2007. Enquiries: el_green@bigpond.com.

Bicentenary of the arrival of the Norfolk Islanders in Van Diemen's Land, 1807-2007:

Hobart Town (1804) First Settlers Association conference, Wrest Point, Hobart, 2 December 2007.

THRA, one-day conference, 16 March 2008. Enquiries: Alison.Alexander@utas.edu.au.

Descendents Day Get Together, City Hall, Hobart, 29 March 2008. Enquiries: Irene Schaffer, phone 6272 2124, or email schaffer@optusnet.com.au.

East Launceston Primary School's 100th anniversary will be celebrated from 14 -19 April 2008: School Open Days 17-19 April; Mother' Club Luncheon 16 April; Afternoon Tea 17 April; Back to East Family Day on the oval and Cocktail Evening 19 April. Past students, parents and teachers are invited to contact the Centennial Committee with names, dates, memorabilia and photos. Contact by email ELPS.100@gmail.com or in writing to the East Launceston Primary School (Centennial Celebrations), Mary Street, East Launceston, TAS 7250.

Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the 11 September LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **29 August 2007**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 October 2007** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.