



Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 135

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

Welcome to the New Committee Members for 2012

The new committee for 2012 was elected at the AGM on Saturday 21 April. We welcome the latest recruits: Dianne Cassidy, Robyn Jones, Sue McClarron and Jai Paterson. Marion Sargent was appointed President. The other committee members are Catherine Pearce (Vice-President), Leonie Prevost (Treasurer and Public Officer), Jon Addison and Gus Green. Mary Hoggett was re-elected at the AGM, but since has resigned from the committee. We sincerely thank our retiring President, Dr Marita Bardenhagen, who has been at the helm of the Society for five years. Thank you also to Carol Fuller, the retiring Treasurer of five years, and Jenny Gill, who has been on the committee for a total of 20 years. Thank you also to Terese Binns and Andrew Gregg who did not re-stand. Barney Reynolds resigned from the committee in February.

April Seminar

Publishing in Launceston: Past & Present



Jon Addison and Peter Richardson: speakers at the seminar

Launceston publications. His number one is John West's *History of Tasmania*. This flowed on to the Museum's curator of history **Jon Addison's** talk on the anti-transportation conflict waged in the newspapers of the 1840s and early 1850s between John West in the *Examiner* and William Lushington Goodwin of the *Cornwall Chronicle*. Jon then led a curator's tour of the fascinating exhibition *The Convict Stain: Vice, Virtue & John West*.

Held at the QVMAG on 21 April 2012, the afternoon seminar was presented in a different format from past symposia. First was the Annual General Meeting, with an interesting PowerPoint display of the previous year's activities. The Annual Report, presented by Marion Sargent, is on our website: www.launcestonhistory.org.au

Peter Richardson spoke on the success of the publishing ventures he had instigated when Senior Librarian at the Launceston Library. From modest beginnings with cards and posters, the three *On the Tide* volumes became bestsellers, allowing the publication of *Voyages in a Caravan* and the Friends of the Library local history series. Peter rounded off his talk with what he believes are the ten most interesting

LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President	Marion Sargent	6331 4890
Vice-President	Catherine Pearce	
Minute Secretary	Catherine Pearce	
Correspondence Secretary	Robyn Jones	6331 2213
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Amendments to the Constitution

A notice of motion to amend the Launceston Historical Society Constitution was passed by the members at the AGM on 21 April 2012 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.

The first amendment streamlines the membership process. The second means that now the AGM will be held on the third Sunday of February. Membership payments will become due on the 31 December, one month earlier than has been the practice since 2000.



Dr Nic Haygarth presenting his paper on Weindorfer.

Gustav Weindorfer

Dr Nic Haygarth presented an intriguing paper on Gustav Weindorfer on 20 May. He compared the charismatic host of 'Waldheim' at Cradle Mountain with Lenin, the Russian revolutionary. Nic argues that after he died Weindorfer became a semi-religious icon. It is eighty years since Weindorfer's death, yet every New Year's Day a ceremony is held at his grave in remembrance of the Austrian gentleman who married Kate Cowle from Kindred. Now seen as a visionary, a preservationist, a pioneer of conservation and wilderness tourism, Weindorfer believed that natural resources were God-given for the use of man.

Dr William Pugh Day Lecture

Emeritus Professor Barry Baker, *Dr Mark Lidwill: a Sydney Anaesthetist*

Sunday 17 June 2012 – 2.30pm at the Meeting Room, QVMAG Museum at Inveresk.

Professor Baker will speak about Dr Mark Lidwill, a Sydney anaesthetist, whose career spanned 35 years from 1905 to 1940. Dr Lidwill was the first Honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (FFARACS); the first Director of the first Anaesthetic Department in Australia, at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney; and in the 1920s was the first person in the world to pace a human heart successfully. Additionally, his diverse non-medical interests combine to create a remarkable character; and yet he has missed out on a mention in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Such is fame in this country!

Professor Baker, with a distinguished career in anaesthesia research and education, is the Emeritus Professor of Anaesthesia, University of Sydney. Now based in Melbourne, he is Dean of Education and Executive Director of Professional Affairs at the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists. Formerly, he was the Nuffield Professor of Anaesthetics, University of Sydney; and Chairman of the Department of Anaesthetics, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown, Sydney.

The Launceston General Hospital Anaesthetic Department Private Practice Fund is the generous supporter of Professor Baker's visit. And the Lecture is sponsored jointly by the Launceston General Hospital Historical Committee and the Launceston Historical Society.

July Talk

Robert Warneke, *The voyage of the schooner 'Brothers', Captain James Kelly, in 1813, with an account of the sealing sites Albatross Island and Seal Rocks at Western Port.*

Sunday 15 July 2012 2.30pm at the Meeting Room, QVMAG Museum at Inveresk.

Robert Warneke graduated from Melbourne University with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science (1958); and a Master of Science in Zoology (1964). He was a Harkness Fellow (USA), 1966-1967; and from 1966, an Honorary Associate in Zoology, Museum Victoria.

During his professional career Robert was employed as a wildlife biologist, and later Research Manager, with the Victorian Fisheries and Wildlife Department (and its subsequent amalgamations and restructures), 1959-1991. He was involved widely in field research into the biology of problems and threatened species of native mammals, and in fauna survey. Further, he has advised on various aspects of conservation and management of native mammals, including legislation.

In the field of marine mammals, he investigated and documented all reported cetacean strandings, 1962-1991; and conducted a long-term study (1964-1991) into the biology, behaviour and population dynamics of the Australian Fur Seal colony on Seal Rocks, Western Port, based on a marking program conducted over eleven breeding seasons during which 18,000 pups were tagged and/or freeze-branded.

Fortunately, a Harkness Fellowship enabled him to study overseas. He contributed papers to two major international conferences: Symposium on the Biology of the Seal, Guelph, Canada, 1972; and the FAO Scientific Consultation on the Conservation and Management of Marine Mammals and their Environment, Bergen, Norway, 1976.

From 1991 to 2000, he was self-employed as a consultant on marine mammals. Mr Warneke and his wife moved to Tasmania in 1994. For the past decade he has been engaged in various projects concerning whaling and the history of sealing in Australia.

Members' Column

New Members: The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Revel Munro and Daphne Mitchell.

Archaeology Group: The next meeting will be in the Phil Leonard Room at the Launceston LINC on Tuesday 26 June 2012 at 1.00pm. Enquiries to John Dent, email: john.dent@pda.com.au

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

Can you help?

Convict ship *Neva*

I am writing a book on the convict ship *Neva*. It sank off King Island in 1835 en route from Cork to Sydney with the loss of over 220 lives, mostly convict women and children. Eventually, the surviving six women and nine crew members were taken to Launceston where there was a commission of enquiry.

I have a volume of research relating to the ship, the enquiry and the women, but I'm trying to find information on the following:

- The salvage of the ship and its contents (including the rum) – this might have involved Leonard Roberts, John Peter Armstrong and Charles Friend, all from Launceston.
- The survey and construction of the lighthouse at Cape Wickham around 1850 – skeletons from the wreck were reported to have been found.

I am hoping your members may be able to help in my research – I have searched the Tasmanian Archives site but you might have local information. The book will be published in Ireland next year by Mercier Press.

Please contact Kevin Todd at the University of the Sunshine Coast, Locked Bag 4, Maroochydore DC, Queensland 4558 or KTODD@usc.edu.au.

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 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. 10 July 2012, Jacqueline Fox, *John Lewes Pedder (1793-1859): Some New Perspectives on a Colonial Judge*; 14 August 2012, Pam Sharpe, *An Historical Atlas for Tasmania: Projects and Plans*.

George Town & District Historical Society: The next two meetings for 2012 will be held at *The Grove*: 18 June, Phil Hawkins, David Painter & Myra Penning, *Local identities in George Town during the last 50 years*; 16 July, Darrell Camino, *History of football in George Town*.

National Book Council: Guest speaker for the June meeting is John Biggs, author of *Tasmania over five generations*. Wednesday, 20 June 2012, 1.15pm, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston LINC, Civic Square.

History Ride: The next Tamar Bicycle Users' Group history ride will be on Sunday 22 July 2012. Marion Sargent will lead a bicycle tour from Royal Park to Corra Linn and return, stopping at St Leonards to see places of historical interest. Meet in Park Street at 9.15am for a 9.30am start. Enquiries: phone 6331 4890 or email marionsargent@bigpond.com.

Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the 17 June 2012 LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **10 June 2012**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 August 2012** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.