

EDUCATION, FLAGELLATION AND RECREATION: A WALKING TOUR OF ROYAL PARK

Launceston Historical Society for National Trust Heritage Festival, 21 May 2017.

Time line of key dates. (Sources of information in brackets)

<p>The central part of Launceston was a major spring and autumn hunting ground for the Leterrermairrener people. It has been suggested a ceremonial site or camping ground may have been located in Royal Park. (Shayne Breen, <i>Aboriginal Connections with Launceston Places</i>, p.128)</p>	
1805/6	<p>British settlers came to Launceston. First houses near Government Cottage, City Park. (Private correspondence, John Dent, Surveyor, Launceston)</p>
1809	<p>First flood since white settlement. (J Koshin, 'Flood Protection' <i>On the Tide</i> 3, p.50)</p>
1821	<p>Gov. Macquarie ordered construction of new gaol, hospital and military barracks at Launceston, 30 June. (Macquarie to Sorell, 30/6/1821, <i>HRA III</i> vol. IV, p.19)</p>
1823	<p>Construction of Military Barracks, September. The area sometimes referred to as 'Soldier's Point'. (Anne Green, <i>A Model Municipality</i>, p.30)</p>
1824	<p>Lieut. Gov. Sorell reported gaol, hospital and military barracks had been built, 22 May. (Sorell to Lieut. Gov. Arthur, 22/5/1824, <i>HRA III</i>, vol. IV, p.146)</p>
1834	<p>Female Factory completed and occupied. (A. Bartlett, 'Launceston Female Factory' in <i>Way Back When</i>, p.142)</p>
1837	<p>Court House foundations laid, December. (<i>Cornwall Chronicle</i>, 30/12/1837, p.2) A Tamar Yacht Club formed, September. (<i>Cornwall Chronicle</i>, 2/9/1837, p.2)</p>
1838	<p>Treadmill completed. (<i>Cornwall Chronicle</i>, 1/9/1838, p.2) First regatta on the Tamar, 24 November. (<i>Cornwall Chronicle</i>, 1/12/1838, p.2)</p>
1839	<p>Court House used for the first time, for an insolvency case. (<i>Cornwall Chronicle</i>, 23/3/1839, p.3)</p>
1840	<p>First official Tamar Regatta, 17 January. (<i>Cornwall Chronicle</i>, 18/1/1840, p2) Gaol extended. (A. Green, <i>A Model Municipality</i>, p.32)</p>
1846	<p>Northern command dismantled, British military gradually withdrawn, Military Barracks started to empty. (J Koshin & A Green, 'Royal Park to 1912' in <i>On the Tide</i> 3, p.34)</p>
1853	<p>First Launceston municipal elections held at the Court House, 1 January. Cessation of transportation of convicts to Tasmania, May. Permanent gallows removed from gaol, 27 June. (Jillian Koshin, 'Chronology of 150 years of local Government in Launceston', <i>LHS P&P</i>, v.15, 2003, p.53)</p>
1855	<p>Female Factory ceased operation, 5 October. (A. Bartlett, 'Launceston Female Factory' in <i>Way Back When</i>, p.142)</p>
1857	<p>Launceston Marine Board established. (Marine Board Act 1857, no.16)</p>
1860s	<p>Treadmill on Wellington Square converted to police stables then later became the Police Court. (A Green, <i>A Model Municipality</i>, p.36)</p>
1865	<p>Launceston Municipal Council takes over responsibility for the police force, 2 October. (J Koshin, 'Chronology of 150 years ...', <i>LHS P&P</i>, v.15, 2003, p.54)</p>
1867	<p>Prisoners built an embankment below the barracks, reclaiming a few acres of tidal flats for garden. (L Wootton, 'The Launceston Invalid Depot' in <i>Way Back When</i>, p.144)</p>
1868	<p>Military Barracks converted into Invalid Depot (<i>Cornwall Chronicle</i>, 29/4/1868, p.4) Two oak trees planted in front of Police Office next to Wellington Square. [Treadmill site] (J Koshin, 'Chronology of 150 years ...', <i>LHS P&P</i>, v.15, 2003, p.55)</p>
1880	<p>Tamar Yacht Club founded. (<i>Examiner</i>, 25/2/1880, p.2)</p>
1882	<p>Last hanging at Launceston gaol - George Braxton for the murder of Ellen Sneezewell. (<i>Examiner</i>, 11/7/1882, p.2)</p>
1883	<p>Launceston Bowling Club established at a meeting, 18 May. (<i>Examiner</i> 18/5/1883, p.1)</p>
c.1884	<p>Marine Board reclaimed and drained Invalid Depot Grounds; created a 'fine sandy beach'. (<i>Daily Telegraph</i> 30/4/1884, p.2; <i>Examiner</i>, 3/6/1886, p.3) Tamar Regatta Association established. (<i>Mercury</i>, 25/1/1884, p.3) Launceston Bowling Club first used green, December. (<i>Tasmanian</i>, 13/12/1884, p.7)</p>
1885	<p>Invalid Depot river frontage leased to Tamar Yacht Club. (<i>Examiner</i>, 26/9/1885, p.2) Alfred Barret Biggs' telescope erected in Invalid Depot Grounds (<i>Daily Telegraph</i>, 19/9/1885, p.3)</p>
1887	<p>Foundation stone of Victoria Museum & Art Gallery laid for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, 21 June. (J Koshin, 'Chronology of 150 years ...', <i>LHS P&P</i>, v.15, 2003, p.56)</p>
1889	<p>Invalid Depot Grounds handed over to Launceston City Council by the Government. (J Koshin, 'Chronology of 150 years ...', <i>LHS P&P</i>, v.15, 2003, p.56)</p>
1891	<p>Victoria Museum & Art Gallery opened by Governor, Sir Robert Hamilton, 19 April. (<i>Examiner</i>, 30/4/1891, p.3) Original Tamar Yacht Club clubhouse completed. (<i>Examiner</i>, 23/11/1891)</p>
1897	<p>Victoria Baths foundation stone laid for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee (<i>Examiner</i>, 24/6/1897, p.5) Herbert Hedley Scott appointed first full-time curator of Museum. (<i>Examiner</i>, 20 May 1897, p.6)</p>
1899	<p>Proposal to beautify and make a park on the Invalid Depot Grounds. (<i>Daily Telegraph</i>, 1/2/1899)</p>
1901	<p>Wellington Square State School opens. (A Green, <i>A Model Municipality</i> p.176)</p>

1904 – 1909	Marine Board reclaimed about 14 acres of river flats from in front of the Invalid Depot to lower Charles Street , and re-formed the beach near the Yacht Club. (<i>Examiner</i> , 22/11/1904, p.7; H. Button, <i>Flotsam & Jetsam</i> , 1909, p.136; J Koshin, 'Chronology of 150 years ...', <i>LHS P&P</i> , v.15, 2003, p.57)
1905/6	Ladies Croquet Club first used old bowls green. (<i>Examiner</i> , 19/10/1905, p.3)
1910	New Technical School opened adjoining the Museum, September. (<i>Weekly Courier</i> , 22/9/1910, p.29)
1912	Foundation stone of King Edward VII statue laid by Lt General Sir Baden Powell; Invalid Depot Grounds renamed Royal Park, 8 June. (<i>Examiner</i> , 10/6/1912, p.6) Invalid Depot closes, 24 June, buildings demolished by October. (<i>Examiner</i> , 2/11/1912, p.9)
1913	Tennis courts laid out near bowls club. (J Koshin & A Green, 'Royal Park from 1912' in <i>On the Tide 3</i> , p.36)
1914	Demolition of Female Factory began. (A Green, <i>A Model Municipality</i> , p.39)
1915	Opening of new pavilion of Royal Park and River croquet clubs, 17 February. (<i>Weekly Courier</i> , 4/3/1915, p.22)
1916	New Launceston High School opened. (<i>Examiner</i> , 24/3/1916, p.4) Paterson Street gates to Royal Park presented as an Easter gift to the city. (<i>Examiner</i> , 7/6/1916, p.5) New Wellington Square School building opened. (<i>Weekly Courier</i> , 3/8/1916, p.20)
1918	Unveiling of statue of King Edward VII , by the Governor, 9 December. (<i>Weekly Courier</i> , 12/11/1918, p.22)
1919	Influenza Epidemic. Wellington Square School used as an Isolation Hospital. (<i>Weekly Courier</i> , 9/10/1919, p.23) Cameron Street gates to Royal Park presented by Mr F Hart, MLC. (<i>Examiner</i> , 14/11/1919, p.4)
1920s & 1930	Marine Board and City Council deposited more sand along Royal Park foreshore for the beach. (J Koshin & A Green, 'Royal Park from 1912' in <i>On the Tide 3</i> , p.36)
1924	Royal Park War Memorial unveiled , 25 April. (<i>Examiner</i> 26/4/1924, p.13) First 'Henley on Tamar' regatta held, 15 March. (A McKay, 'Henley on Tamar', <i>On the Tide 2</i> , p.162)
1927	Launceston Technical School buildings became part of the Museum. (<i>Launceston: a pictorial history</i> , QVMAG, reprint 2004, p86-87)
1929	Flooding across Tasmania. Royal Park inundated, April. (<i>Weekly Courier</i> , 10/4/1929)
1930	Court House dock etc dismantled; room used as Technical School assembly hall. (<i>Examiner</i> , 3/10/1930, p.2)
1933	Demolition of front porch of Court House. (<i>Examiner</i> , 14/6/1933, p.6)
1935	First tree in Pioneer Avenue (Launceston to Hobart) planted in Royal Park by Lord Mayor of Hobart, 5 April. (<i>Mercury</i> , 13/9/1941) Plaque erected to commemorate work of Alfred Barrett Biggs, 18 September. (Monument in park)
1936	Police offices and Police Court (formerly treadmill complex) closed and demolished. (<i>Examiner</i> , 11/8/1936, p.6)
1937	New Fall-Hartnoll Wing of Museum opened by the Mayor, 25 November. (J Koshin, 'Chronology of 150 years ...', <i>LHS P&P</i> , v.15, 2003, p.59)
1940	Tamar Regatta Association held its Centenary Regatta at Stephenson's bend. (<i>Mercury</i> , 27/2/1940, p.10) Demolition of remainder of old Court House. (<i>Examiner</i> , 30/4/1940, p.7) Wellington Square School closed, acquired by the Launceston Technical College. (<i>Examiner</i> , 9/12/1939 p. 2 & 10/1/1940, p.5)
1940s – 1960s	Central city tip on the river bank in front of Royal Park – for reclamation purposes. (<i>Examiner</i> , 30/9/1941, p.4)
1947	Turkish baths and men's pool at Victoria Baths demolished to make way for the first and second blocks of the Technical College. (<i>Examiner</i> , 31/1/1947, p.2; <i>Mercury</i> , 24/11/1947, p.7)
1949	Façade and remainder of Victoria Baths demolished to make way for the third block of the Technical College. (<i>Examiner</i> , 30/4/1949, p.5)
1955	Trevallyn Power Scheme began operation and flow of water through Cataract Gorge reduced. (J Koshin, 'Chronology of 150 years ...', <i>LHS P&P</i> , v.15, 2003, p.60)
1959	New croquet lawn at Royal Park opened, 9 December. (G Jessup, <i>Royal Park Croquet Club Souvenir Booklet 1959-60 to 1984-5 Seasons</i> , p.2.)
1959/60	New gate and brick pillars erected at the Royal Park entrance opposite Bathurst Street. (Report from Parks and Reserves, 1960, p.75)
1960	Launceston Flood Protection Board established. (Launceston Flood Protection Act 1960, no. 85)
1962 – 1965	Construction of flood protection levees from King's Park, around Royal Park and along banks of North Esk River. (J Koshin, 'Chronology of 150 years ...', <i>LHS P&P</i> , v.15, 2003, p.61)
1962	Launceston High School became a matriculation college. (A Green, <i>A Model Municipality</i> , p.183)
1968	Launceston Area Transportation Study recommended northern city outlet be created by extending Bathurst Street under Paterson Street and through Royal Park to lower Charles Street. (Mayor's Annual Valedictory Addresses)
1969	Flood Protection Scheme put to the test, 31 May. (<i>Examiner</i> , 1/6/1969)
1971/3	Construction of Bathurst Street Extension and Northern Outlet. (Mayor's Annual Valedictory Addresses)
1975	Royal Park Rose Gardens established by the International Women's Year Committee. (Plaque in gardens)
1988	Zonta roses planted. (Plaque in gardens)
2010	Royal Park South - Military Sites and Monuments - entered on the Tasmanian Heritage Register, 8 September