



Launceston Historical Society Inc

Newsletter No 115

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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 2009

The new committee for 2009-10 was elected at the AGM on Saturday 18 April. We welcome one new committee member, Jon Addison, who will consolidate our connections with the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery. Marita Bardenhagen was elected as President for another term. The other committee members are: Marion Sargent (Vice President), John Dent (Minute Secretary), Carol Fuller (Treasurer), Anne Bartlett, Jill Cassidy, Jenny Gill, Andrew Gregg, Nic Haygarth, and Rosalie Kelly.

The Examiner-John West Memorial Lecture

On 13 March Phillip Adams' thought-provoking lecture *The end of the world? Or The birth of a better one?* was an overwhelming success. Such was the demand to hear him speak, Phillip agreed to present two lectures back-to-back to over 500 people. He discussed how the financial crisis, climate change and political conflicts have created a perfect storm of problems, but it also presents our greatest opportunity to begin anew. The John West memorial lecture is an annual event organised by the Launceston Historical Society and supported by *The Examiner* and the University of Tasmania.



Phillip Adams and Anne Bartlett at the lecture.

Dr Eric Ratcliff moved the vote of thanks for the first lecture. He said in part that, "This evening, you Phillip Adams, have again demonstrated that you are like John West: a journalist who is a major public intellectual, a polemicist who speaks for reason, a man of faith who does not confuse Faith with Belief". Dr Alex Thomson delivered an impromptu vote of thanks for the second lecture.

We look forward to next year's lecture with Tim Flannery, writer, scientist and explorer.

Membership Renewals

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.

A renewal form is available on our website www.launcestonhistory.org.au.

LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President	Marita Bardenhagen	6334 4490
Vice-President	Marion Sargent	6331 4890
Minute Secretary	John Dent	6331 4099
Correspondence Secretary	Rosalie Kelly	6340 2965
Treasurer	Carol Fuller	6331 1558
Newsletter Editor	Marion Sargent	6331 4890
Speaker Coordinator & Publications Editor	Nic Haygarth	6398 1334

All correspondence should be sent to: PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 or launcestonhistory@gmail.com

Society Website: www.launcestonhistory.org.au (A copy of this newsletter can be found on this site in colour)

May Talk

Sunday 17 May 2009 – 2.30pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

Heather Felton: Key moments in our social history – water resources and electricity in northern Tasmania.

In Tasmania, the harnessing of water for domestic, industrial and agricultural purposes has a fascinating but controversial history, particularly in the north of the state. In this presentation, Heather will describe some of the controversies and the innovative and entrepreneurial individuals involved, before focusing on Launceston's pioneering role in the use of water power for generating electricity.

Heather Felton's most recent publication is *Ticklebelly tales and other stories from the people of the Hydro*, a social and cultural history of Hydro Tasmania. Previous publications include *From Commissariat to Treasury – The story of the Tasmanian Department of Treasury and Finance 1804 to 2004*, written as Treasury's contribution to the bicentenary of Hobart's settlement. Earlier she collaborated with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community to research and write a history entitled *Living with the Land* and two sets of stories – *On being Aboriginal* and *Return to the Islands*. Heather works as Principal Project Officer with the Department of Treasury and Finance.

June Talk

Sunday 21 June 2009 – 2.30pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

John Dent: The Missing Link? – The first street map of Launceston.

A recently-discovered plan in the Titles Office in Hobart is dated 1844. However, it appears to be much earlier than this; but is it as early as 1809? If this assumption is correct, it is the earliest street plan of Launceston. Further research is being undertaken to try to identify its date, who made the plan and for what purpose, and then to see what it can tell us about the beginnings of Launceston. This will be put in context with Grimes' 1807 survey, Meehan and Evans in 1812 and Scott in 1821.

John Dent is a registered land surveyor in private practice in Launceston. He has combined this with an interest in the early history of Launceston to look more closely at many of the early surveyors and at the records they left behind. Currently he is co-writing a book on the early history of York Town, is president of the West Tamar Historical Society and is on the committee of the Launceston Historical Society.

April Symposium

Non-Conformists in Northern Tasmania



Laurie Rowston, Eric Ratcliff, Elisabeth Wilson, Stefan Petrow and Michael Bennett.

The Annual Symposium held on 18 April provided an interesting forum of five speakers. Keynote speaker **Prof Michael Bennett** gave us an insight into the small influence that the Quaker missions had on Launceston. The old religion of dissent was wound up in Launceston about 1851. The nine burials in what was the Friends Cemetery in Pedder Street are all that remain.

Dr Eric Ratcliff spoke on the Methodist, Baptist, Independent and Congregational chapels and churches that were built in Launceston – the earliest surviving being the 1835 Methodist Chapel in Paterson Street, which some of us visited after the Symposium.

Dr Stefan Petrow delivered a paper by **Dr Anne Bailey** on the 1836-39 spiritual diary of Wesleyan Methodist Henry Jennings, who wrote about the conflict he was experiencing between making money and being true to his religious beliefs. Jennings was living beyond his means. Phillip Oakden and Henry Reed admonished him for his recklessness in order to save him from debt.

Elisabeth Wilson spoke about the evangelical missionary work of the Christian Brethren in northern Tasmania in 1860s and 1870s. This non-denominational group emphasised the conversion of people to a belief in Christ. Elisabeth is searching for a *Melbourne Hymn Book* which was used by the Brethren.

Laurie Rowston spoke on Rev Samuel Cozens' foray into Launceston (1868-70) where he created a breakaway group of Particular Baptists and built a short-lived chapel at 1 Balfour Street. Cozens also wrote two booklets in memory of Rev Henry Dowling, the minister at the original York Street Chapel.

After the Symposium a group of members enjoyed informative tours by **Rev Tony Duncan** of the Pilgrim Uniting Church and **Rev Peter Thorneycroft** of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, both located in the historic precinct of Paterson Street.

Advance Notice of Activities

Sunday 19 July 2009: Brian Rollins, *The original Bass Highway c1827-28.*

Sunday 23 August 2009: Elspeth Wishart (TMAG) and Linda Clark (QVMAG), *Convict clothing.*

Sunday 27 September 2009: Dr Dianne Snowden, *Northern women convicts.*

Sunday 18 October 2009: Brad Williams, *Archaeology in Northern Tasmania.*

Sunday 15 November 2009: Jon Addison, *Reflection on a year as History Curator of QVMAG.*

Members' Column

New Members: The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Henry Bartlett, Robyn Phillips, Barry and Anne Waining and Treve Williams.

Marita Bardenhagen's travelling exhibition entitled 'Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Lives; a pictorial history of Bush Nursing in Tasmania 1910-1957' will be on display at the Old Post Office at Avoca, from 12 May 2009 – International Nursing Day. And on the same day a statue of a Bush Nurse will be unveiled there.

Mary Hoggett kindly has volunteered to organise the afternoon teas at our Sunday meetings, but another helper would be very much appreciated.

Recent Publications by Members

Jai Paterson, *Beer, tin and salvation: William Street Launceston 1898*. Published by the National Trust, this 74 page book – with drawings by Simon Barnard – provides an enlightening history of Boag's Brewery, tin processing, the Salvation Army "rescue home" and the residents and business people who lived and worked at this cultural heritage site. The book is available for \$19.95 from bookshops, QVMAG, National Trust and the Boag's Centre for Beer Lovers in William Street.

Nic Haygarth and Simon Cubit, 'Bert Nichols – hunter, guide and pioneer ranger', in THRA P&P, Vol 56, No 1, March 2009, pages 81-96.



Nic Haygarth – Profile

Speaker co-ordinator and occasional outing organizer, Nic Haygarth is an historian specialising in the Tasmanian highlands. Books he will own up to writing include *A View to Cradle: a History of Tasmania's Forth River High Country* (1998); *Baron Bischoff: Philosopher Smith and the Birth of Tasmanian Mining* (2004); *The Wild Ride: Revolutions That Shaped Tasmanian Black-and-White Wilderness Photography* (2008); and *A Peopled Frontier: the European Heritage of the Tarkine Area* (2009). His new book (co-authored with Arthur Clarke) *Wonderstruck: Treasuring Tasmania's Cave Underworld* will finally appear soon.

In June his goal of presenting a paper about Tasmanian tin mining at a conference in Cornwall, the home of tin mining, finally will be realised. Beyond that, his ambition is one day to write a book that has no sub-title.

Launceston Historical Society History Prize 2009

Objects of History: After the success of last year's inaugural History Prize once again we are offering students the chance to create a story, poster or poem. The task is to choose an object of historical significance to a family or community then research and re-tell the history of the object. Suggestions of objects include: letters, diaries, journals, clothing, jewellery, buildings, statues, plaques, trees, ornaments utensils, paintings or photographs. Entry is open to students living in the 03 telephone region. The winner and two honourable mentions from each of five categories – from grade 3 to grade 12 – will receive book vouchers. Entries are to be submitted by Friday 25 September 2009. Entry forms will be out to schools by the last week of the first term.

Launceston Historical Society Archaeology Committee

The LHS has decided to establish an Archaeology Committee drawn from its members. The aim of the committee will be to involve interested members in archaeological projects within Launceston and surrounding areas. It may involve assisting with archaeological excavations but also will look at identifying possible sites that might have archaeological remains which should shed more light on Launceston's early history.

Meetings are to be held at the Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library, Civic Square, on the last Tuesday of every month (except December) at 1.00pm. If you are unable to attend the next meeting or want more information please email john.dent@pda.com.au.



The first Archaeology meeting held at the Elm Tree Café on 28 April 2009. Members who attended are pictured clockwise from the left: Prue McCausland, Gus Green, Dr Jillian Koshin, Jenny Gill, Angela Prosser-Green, John Dent, Anne Bartlett, Claire Hughes and Alex Crothers photographed by Dr Marita Bardenhagen.

2007 & 2008 Papers & Proceedings

The 2007 and 2008 LHS Papers & Proceedings are nearing completion and will be posted to all those who previously paid for them.

Characters from the Past

In the March newsletter there is a paragraph about the threatened destruction of Mr Robert Bell's hearse as he negotiated the muddy road to the Cypress Street Cemetery in September 1843. Robyn Lake has handed in this article which heralds the arrival of that hearse in Launceston six years earlier.

The Cornwall Chronicle, 14 Nov 1837, page 2:

Robert Bell's Hearse

Mr Robert Bell, the Cabinet Maker, of Brisbane Street, has received per *Artemis*, from London, a splendid Hearse, fitted with plumes and the symbols of death, for four horses. It is not an accommodation we hope to see often called into requisition, but it is somewhat pleasant to reflect that "mortal remains" may now be conveyed to the silent tomb with all pomp and pageantry, after the true English tradition. Die we all must, and as a church-yard burial is generally desired, we are, perhaps, not out of the way in wishing Mr Bell a fair share of the public patronage.

Henry Bartlett – Webmaster: Profile



I was a teacher for 41 years before my retirement as Deputy Principal at Kings Meadows High School in 1995. Although deeply interested in History all my life (and during my life have lived through much of it) I trained at UTAS in Hobart to be a Science/Mathematics teacher. In my teaching career, I taught in a number of different schools around the State: Queenstown Technical High School, Hobart High School, King Island District High School, Rose Bay High School, Rosebery District High School before finishing up at Kings Meadows High School.

It is a matter of some regret to me that the first two schools (and the three schools I attended as a child) no longer exist in the form that I knew them – they were swallowed up by the post-war reorganisation of the 50s and 60s.

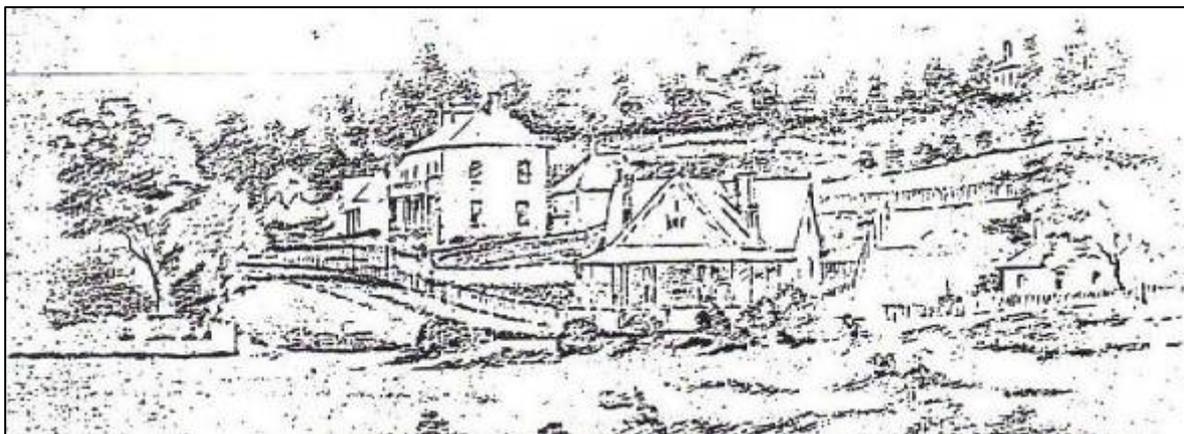
At King Island District High School, I met and married Anne Grey who had been appointed to the school. In 1966 we took a year off and travelled to Great Britain where I taught in Inner London, Nottingham and Edinburgh. In the weekends and school holidays Anne and I travelled around England, Scotland, Wales, and much of Continental Europe in a battered, yellow Bedford van that we had bought for the purpose.

My first exposure to computers was in the 70s but I resisted the temptation to become involved until we bought a computer for Anne to write her History essays on in the mid-80s. I then realised the potential for computers in education and wrote several programs to assist teaching and administration.

After my retirement, I filled in some time by teaching myself Windows programming and then website construction using HTML. Over the years, I have built a number of websites and am learning all the time. At the end of 2000, I built the first version of the Launceston Historical Society website which went online in January 2001.

Can You Help?

An early view of Lyttleton Street, Launceston



The above sketch showing the corner of Lyttleton Street and Elphin Road appears on page 5b in the *Hales Family Letters* edited by Michael H Wilson. There is no indication of where the original sketch came from or who the artist was. If this is known to anyone, please contact Jenny Gill, who is writing a book about the Holy Trinity Church and wishes to include this sketch. Her email is goldiegill@bigpond.com.

Grants Point and Grants Lagoon

I am currently researching the history of Binalong Bay (Boat Harbour) for a book I intend to write. I am having trouble finding out whether Grants Point and Grants Lagoon are named after Grant of Tullochgorum or another James Grant who was living in St Helens in the very early days. If anyone could help me with this or information on the pre 1900 farmers in the area (includes Humbug Point) it would be appreciated. Pre 1900 images would be greatly appreciated. At the present time I have a new book at the graphic designer stage and my previous publications are listed on my web site.

Garry & Mary Richardson, Wanderer Photographics, Bay of Fires Images and Publishing, PO Box 135, St Helens 7216, Ph/Fax: (03) 6376 2065, www.wandererphotographics.com, www.bayoffiresimages.com

Zeehan Gem and Mineral Fair Trip Saturday and Sunday 7- 8 November 2009

The Launceston Historical Society is conducting a two-day coach trip to Zeehan ('Silver City') and its old mining port of Trial Harbour to coincide with the Zeehan Gem and Mineral Fair on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th of November 2009. Saturday night will be spent at the Central Hotel, Zeehan. Highlights include the West Coast Pioneers Museum and Gaiety Theatre in Zeehan, the Trial Harbour History Room, the Zeehan Pioneers Cemetery and the Tasmanian Smelter site.

The cost is yet to be confirmed. It includes coach fare, accommodation and continental breakfast at the Central Hotel, BBQ lunch on Saturday at the Central Hotel, admission to the West Coast Pioneers Museum and Gaiety Theatre, plus morning teas on Saturday and Sunday. *It does not include admission fee to the Gem and Mineral Fair, dinner on Saturday, lunch on Sunday or afternoon teas on either day as required.* (Admission to the Trial Harbour History Room is by donation.) Numbers are limited to 23.

Please note: Single, twin (2 single beds) and double (1 double bed) rooms are available at the Central Hotel but there are no ensuite facilities.

For enquiries and expressions of interest please contact Nic Haygarth on 6398 1334, 0418 339 018 or lakelea22@yahoo.com.au

Day 1

Depart Launceston 8AM

Morning tea Sheffield

Check in at Central Hotel, Zeehan

Lunch Central Hotel, Zeehan

Gem Fair
West Coast Pioneers Museum

Afternoon tea Zeehan

Gaiety Theatre
Possibly Zeehan-Montana mine

Dinner Zeehan

Day 2

Breakfast Central Hotel, Zeehan

Trial Harbour History Room

Morning tea Trial Harbour

Zeehan Pioneers Cemetery

Lunch Zeehan

Tasmanian Smelter site

Afternoon tea Rosebery or Tullah

Home

Other Items and Events of Interest

Tasmanian Heritage Festival: *Water: Our Island's life force.* The National Trust is offering almost 100 events in May with tours of boats, historic gardens, natural heritage areas, wild rivers, and historic places; films about lighthouse keepers, regattas, the fishing industry and shipwrecks; talks, exhibitions and theatrical events with a watery theme – all in celebration of the way wild and tamed rivers and the sea have shaped our Tasmanian way of life. Program available on www.nationaltrusttas.org.au.

Photographic Exhibition: The second G D Wherrett/EdZone 'Around Every Corner' photo exhibition comparing views of Launceston's streets in the 1940s with those of today. On show from 1 April 2009, in the Pilgrim Uniting Church Cloisters, 34 Paterson Street, Launceston.

Friends of the Library, Launceston: Guest speaker for the May Coffee Morning is Geoff Brayford, Launceston's City Engineer from 1995-2009, speaking on the *History of Launceston's water supply*. Wednesday, 13 May 2009, 10.15am, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library, Civic Square, Launceston. All welcome.

Swansea Heritage Festival: Three superb days of total immersion in our local colourful history. Friday-Sunday 15-17 May 2009. For enquires contact: Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society email gsbhs@tassie.net.au or phone Elaine Rushbrooke on 6257 8555.

National Book Council of Tasmania: The guest speaker for May is Chris Black, author of *White pointer south: The Tasmanian white pointer chronicles*. Wednesday, 20 May 2009, 1.15pm, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library, Civic Square, Launceston.

Launceston Library: *Libraries – your passport to discovery* is this year's Library Week theme. Discover your ancestors in the Launceston Family Album of passport photographs and memorabilia from the Tasmanian International Exhibition held in the Albert Hall in 1891-92. A display will be held at the Launceston Reference Library, Civic Square, Launceston, from Saturday 23 May to Saturday 20 June.

Community Heritage Grants 09: For a copy of the guidelines and application form please contact: Coordinator, Community Heritage Grants, National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT 2600; phone: (02) 6262 1147; email chg@nla.gov.au, or www.nla.gov.au/chg. Applications close 5 June 2009.

Islands of Memory: Navigating Personal and Public History

The national Oral History conference will be held at the Tram Shed, Launceston, 17–20 September 2009. There will be 55 speakers from five continents over four days. All the conference details are available at www.qvmag.tas.gov.au/oralhistoryconference. A separate flyer is enclosed.

Hobart Town (1804) First Settlers Association Inc: 10th Biennial Tasmanian Local History Conference, *Manufacturers and Traders of Van Diemen's Land 1820-1860*. To be held on 9-10 October 2009 at Wrest Point, Hobart. For enquiries email hobarttown1804settlers@hotmail.com, phone (03) 6272 8737 or write to PO Box 337 Glenorchy TAS 7010.

Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the 9 June 2009 LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **1 June 2009**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 July 2009** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.