



Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 126

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

Norfolk Plains Revealed

Dr Julie Gough, artist and historian, captivated a large audience on 21 November with stories she has re-created from snippets of information embedded within the nine volumes of manuscript 3251 from the NLA. Compiled largely from Magistrates' depositions this primary source has been bound under the title *Echoes of bushranging days in VDL*. Julie is trying to unravel the connections between all those mentioned in the northern area of VDL between 1821 and 1862. Already she has exploded the prevailing myth that her ancestor Dalrymple Briggs was not adopted by Dr Jacob Mountgarrett, but was his servant. Search the transcription here:

<http://manuscript3251.wordpress.com/>



Speaker Dr Julie Gough with Prue McCausland.



History Prize 2010

At 'Egremont' on 19 November an excited group of students who participated in the History Prize competition were presented with certificates by the Mayor, Albert van Zetten. Pictured at the left with Mr van Zetten and Dr Eric Ratcliff are some of the children: in front Alyssa Mahar, from Riverside Primary School, who won first prize in grade 5, as well as the Eric & Patricia Ratcliff Prize. Mowbray Heights Primary School students from the left are: Georgia Harte (Honourable Mention grade 6); Kaleb Clark (First in grade 6); Lynzee Williams; Tayleesha Rock; Kelsey Clarke (President's Encouragement Award); and Eloise Wickham Dolbey (President's Encouragement Award). The winners received book vouchers.

LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President	Marita Bardenhagen	6334 4490
Vice-President	Marion Sargent	6331 4890
Minute Secretary	John Dent	6331 4099
Correspondence Secretary	Leonie Prevost	6391 5511
Treasurer	Carol Fuller	6331 1558
Editor of Newsletter & Publications	Marion Sargent	6331 4890
Speaker Coordinators	Leonie Prevost & Margaret Tassell	6331 2280
Webmaster	Barney Reynolds	0419 115 991

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

Society Website: www.launcestonhistory.org.au

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!



Angela Prosser Green, Warren Prewer & Gus Green.

Christmas Barbecue at Clarence Point

This year's combined Christmas barbecue took us back in time to the Tasmanian Horse Drawn Vehicle Foundation's unique collection at the beautifully located 'Bonny Brae Farm' at Clarence Point. A most enjoyable day was spent browsing the horse-drawn vehicles in the old apple shed, and watching the antics of the free-range poultry. Many thanks to Gus Green for organising the outing; to Warren Prewer for providing an interpretation of the collection; and for Danny and Yvonne Masters' hospitality to the 30 plus people who descended on their farm. Also, special appreciation goes to Yvonne who made the dozens of scones for afternoon tea.



Some of the horse-drawn vehicles on display. Photos: Marion Sargent.

Launceston Historical Society History Prize Recipients 2010

'An Important Historic Event'

Grade 4

First:

Jacqui Dilger & Rebecca Jones 'The Tasman Bridge Disaster'

Honourable Mentions:

Rose Donnelly & Abbey Bishop 'Black Tuesday Bush Fires'
Jack Fisher & Jay Spinks 'Building the Batman Bridge'

Grade 5

First:

Alyssa Mahar 'The Gold Rush'

Honourable Mentions:

Chloe Houston 'Crossing the Blue Mountains'
Mackye Jago 'The Journey of Burke and Wills'

Grade 6

First:

Kaleb Clark 'Re-naming Van Diemen's Land'

Honourable Mentions:

Georgie Harte 'VDL to Tasmania'
Nathan O'Toole 'Going, Going, Gone' (The decline of the Tasmanian Aborigines)

Grade 7/8

Honourable Mention:

Shannon Hunt 'Dr Howard Florey wins Nobel Prize'

Special Awards

President's Award:

Candice Greenway 'Bay Whaling in Tasmania', *for innovative choice of topic*

President's Encouragement Awards:

Eloise Wickham Dolbey 'Abel Tasman', *for outstanding presentation*
Kelsey Clarke 'The Trial of Ned Kelly', *for innovative thinking*
Bill James 'Letter to Queen Victoria, 1856', *for creative reconstruction of history*

Eric & Patricia Ratcliff Award:

Alyssa Mahar 'The Gold Rush'



Quarry site at Kerry Lodge. Photos: John Dent.

Kerry Lodge Excursion

Our group held an archaeological excursion to the site of the Kerry Lodge Probation Station on Monday 22nd November. Fifteen members were led by archaeologist Angie McGowan to identify and record the extent of the above-ground remains of this circa 1834 convict probation station. The day was hot and members were soon looking for a break as we tackled the blackberries, hawthorn and gorse that had grown over the rubble. By lunch time we had cleared most of the weeds to reveal extensive stone foundations and other architectural elements. We had a well-earned lunch under trees at a nearby site of foundations of another building of a similar time period to the ruins on top of the hill.

1840s stone quarry. Our group wishes to thank the private landowners for allowing us on to their properties to undertake this archaeological research. Further site visits will be organised for early next year to uncover more history of this significant convict era site in northern Tasmania. If anyone would like to become part of this group please contact John Dent on john.dent@pda.com.au.

During our visit we discovered the location of the circa 1840s position of the road to Hobart and an

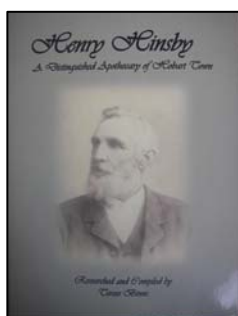


Hard at work clearing weeds from the historic site.



Stone foundations of probation station revealed.

Recent Publication by Member



Terese Binns, *Henry Hinsby, A distinguished apothecary of Hobart Town*, Oct 2010. A medicine chest owned by Hobart Town Apothecary Henry Hinsby was displayed at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery for the Hinsby Family Reunion held over the weekend of 31 October 2010. This marked 175 years since 1835 when Hinsby – and the chest – arrived in Hobart aboard the ship *Augustus Caesar*. As a recently-trained London chemist, Hinsby was appointed to the Impression Bay Probation Station on the Tasman Peninsula where he administered to the convicts, before establishing himself as a pharmacist in Elizabeth Street, Hobart Town. In 1848 he married Lucy Ware, the daughter of the colony's first Baptists, Jeremiah and Mary Ware. From 1857 to 1886 Hinsby was a deacon and leading member of the Harrington Street Strict and Particular Baptist Chapel. Henry was known as "The Father of Pharmacy in Tasmania". As Chairman of the Hobart Chemists' Association, he was instrumental in proposing the foundation laws that govern the pharmacy industry today. To mark the Anniversary, Terese Binns released this illustrated book on the life of Henry Hinsby. RRP \$50.00.

Advance Notice of Activities

Sunday 20 February 2011: Marion Sargent, *Tour of Carr Villa Cemetery: A history of the site*. Meet at the Carr Villa entrance in Nunamina Avenue, Kings Meadows, for a 2.30pm start. The tour will take about one hour and will involve walking and standing. Bring your own drinks.

Friday 11 March 2011: *The Examiner*-John West Memorial Lecture, Professor Cassandra Pybus

Saturday 16 April 2011: Symposium and AGM, *The Indian connection with Tasmania*

Sunday 22 May 2011: Angela McGowan, *Historical Archaeology in Tasmania – an archaeliography*

Sunday 19 June 2011: Dr Jillian Koshin, *Lamont's Cottage*

Sunday 17 July 2011: Dr Anne Neale, *Guide to Launceston's architecture*

Sunday 21 August 2011: Associate Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, *Convicts*

Sunday 18 September 2011: Robyn Lake, *Trade trails ... convict cabinetmakers transported during the Assignment Period*

Sunday 16 October 2011: Andrew Gregg, *"Of greatest service to the Norfolk Plains": The contrasting colonial careers of Roderic O'Connor and William Bryan*

Sunday 20 November 2011: To be advised

Members' Column

New Members: The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Terese Binns, Perry & Dyane Brown, Heather & Lynette Loffel, Helen Mitchell.

Archaeology Group: The next meeting will be on 22 February 2011 (the last Tuesday) at 1.00pm at the Phil Leonard Room, Launceston Library.

Publicity: *The Examiner* has published photographs and articles on some of our recent activities: Dianne Snowden's talk, "Convict women trigger interest of history buffs", 12 October 2010, p. 16; Julie Gough's talk, "Transcribed manuscripts give life to forgotten history", 22 November 2010, p. 13; Christmas function, "History buffs' bonny day at Bonny Brae", 29 November 2010, p. 6.



Enjoying lunch at 'Bonny Brae Farm', Clarence Point. Photo: Angela Prosser Green.

Can you help?

Home Builders' Club: Nanette Carter is researching for a PhD at the University of Melbourne in the School of Historical Studies and the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning. Her topic is DIY house-building and furnishing in the post-war period. She recently came across a reference to a Home Builders' Club in Launceston. She wonders if any person or institution has a collection of the club records for Launceston. She would love to interview anyone involved in the Home Builders' Club, or indeed to talk to anyone who built their own home in the period 1946-1966. Enquiries to Nanette Carter MA, Lecturer, Design, Society and Culture, Swinburne Design, Swinburne University of Technology, 144 High Street, Prahran, VIC 3181. Telephone: 03 9214 6736; email: ncarter@swin.edu.au; website: www.swinburne.edu.au/design

Name game is no joke

Sunday Sun Herald, 5 December 2010, page 9.

A woman's married name can be for worse and not better, a UK database has found. Family history website Findmypast.co.uk found women who became Mary Christmas, Eileen Dover, Queenie King, Mona Lott, Jean Pool, Joy Rider, Lily Pond, Anita Bath, Kerry Oakey and Candy Barr after their weddings.

Papers and Proceedings

The LHS 2009 Papers and Proceedings are now available for sale at \$12.00 each.

Other Items and Events of Interest

Tasmanian Connections: This exciting new exhibition at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery at Inveresk opened on 17 December 2010. Our land, our lives, our people and our past... It's all connected. www.qvmag.tas.gov.au

Through Outcast Eyes: A Journey in the Tamar Valley: This recently produced pocket-size book and CD offer an interactive self-drive history tour of the Tamar Valley. Stories are told through the eyes of outcasts such as convicts, bushrangers and Aborigines in the 46-page question-and-answer illustrated journey. Available from the Launceston, George Town and West Tamar Councils and selected tourism outlets for \$19.95.

Heritage skills - scoping Tasmania's skill shortage: For those of us with an interest in, and provide a service to, heritage places, we sometimes find that getting experienced and skilled tradespeople to care for them can be difficult – either the skills are not available, or those with the skills are booked up well in advance. Because of this problem, Southern Midlands Council has established the Centre for Heritage at Oatlands – a not-for-profit business unit which aims to identify skills shortages, offer training programs, and help boost our stock of available tradespeople.

The Heritage Skills and Education Centre, a branch of the Centre for Heritage, currently is scoping skills deficiency through a Tasmanian Heritage Skills Survey, which aims to detail skills shortages for particular trades, and to determine how people would like to learn more. The survey also aims to identify possible tutors and presenters of courses who may wish to share their skills and experience.

To participate in the survey, log onto - <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/heritageskills>

The survey is open until 27 January 2011. For further information, contact Brad Williams, Heritage Manager – by phone 03 6254 5047 or email heritage@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Gravestone Photographic Resource: Have a look at this United Kingdom based website which is run entirely by volunteers. A free image of available headstones will be emailed on request. However, the organisers would like you to reciprocate with photographs from your local cemetery to add to the site. <http://www.gravestonephotos.com/index.php>

Trove: The National Library of Australia is progressively adding the digitized *Examiner* newspapers to their website. See <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Australian Heritage Week: A new annual national celebration of Australia's unique heritage, to be held on 14-20 April 2011. <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/heritage-week>

Australian Historical Association Regional Conference: *History at the Edge* is to be held on 4-8 July 2011 at the University of Tasmania, Inveresk Campus, Launceston. www.theaha.org.au

ACPHA Conference: The inaugural conference of the Australian Council of Professional Historians Association Inc, "Bringing Together", will be held in Adelaide on 5-6 August 2011.

Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the 8 February 2011 LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **1 February 2011**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 February 2011** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.