



# Launceston Historical Society Inc.

## Newsletter No 145

August 2014

ISSN 1036-7950

PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

*"Bringing together people with an interest in history"*

### The life and times of Joseph T Clover

On Sunday 15 June 2014 Dr Chris Ball delivered the third Pugh Day Lecture. Currently Dr Ball, an anaesthetist, is writing a biography of Dr Joseph Clover. She entertained the audience with anecdotes extracted from Clover's diary and case books. She told how Mr Girling, a snake-keeper at the London Zoo, had a fondness for gin. He danced with a cobra – that struck him on his nose! Clover's carefully-detailed notes concerning the man's body led him to conclude that Girling had died from asphyxia. Clover had begun his medical career just when anaesthesia was being developed. Giving up his position as a Resident Medical Officer in 1853, he began to practise anaesthesia full-time. From a workshop in his basement, he carried out experiments with chloroform; and taught Joseph Lister how to use it during surgical operations. Joseph Clover married and had five children; he suffered from consumption (TB) and died aged 57 in 1882. His wife lived until she was 90.

**Dr Ball is pictured here with Margaret Patterson, one of the first female anaesthetists in Launceston.**



**Speaker Dr Roger Kellaway with committee member Robyn Jones. Photo: M Sargent**

### The Third Basin Gold Rush 1857

Dr Roger Kellaway presented an interesting paper on the discovery of gold in the Third Basin, situated a few miles from Launceston on the South Esk River. The discovery by William Wilkie was announced in the *Launceston Examiner* on 12 March 1857. A party of respectable gentlemen, led by William Cleveland, travelled up to inspect the location. A few specks of gold worth 12 shillings were found. It was enough to cause a rush of diggers hopeful of 'striking it rich'! By the weekend, 300 to 400 people were camping there. One enterprising pastry cook set up business selling biscuits, cakes and ginger beer. But with the onset of winter, a flood and small returns, the 'rush' was over by June 1857.

## August Talk

### **Dr Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, *Imprisonment and the Family***

**Sunday 17 August 2014 – 2.00pm** at the Meeting Room, QVMAG Museum at Inveresk

This paper will use records of convicted and discharged prisoners to explore family life in 19th-century Tasmania. Many of the 39,000 individuals, whose descriptions were circulated in the *Tasmanian Police Gazettes* between 1865 and 1924, were children. Often convicted of comparatively petty offences, such as stealing apples and throwing stones, these records provide a window into the everyday life of the children of the poor.

The offences for which they were convicted over the course of their lives are revealing. Their reported heights can be used to piece together a picture of available nutrition and exposure to disease and other social insults. The paper will use this data to explore the extent to which children born in some areas of Tasmania were better off than those in others. It also will explore the extent to which the colony might be described as a 'working man's paradise' by comparing the gap in the height of the colonially-born with that of migrants raised in Britain and Ireland.

Hamish Maxwell-Stewart – an Associate Professor at the University of Tasmania – lectures in History. He has authored a number of books and articles, and currently is collaborating with an international team of researchers to explore the long-term impacts of transportation on health and offending.

## September History Seminar

**Sunday 21 September 2014 – 10.00am to 3.00pm** at the Meeting Room, QVMAG Museum at Inveresk

**Seminar presented jointly by the Launceston Historical Society  
and the**

**Oral History Association of Australia (Tas) Inc**

**Peter Henning**, *Tasmanian Nurses in the Second World War: Breaking the Silence*

**Tom Gunn and Anne Green**, *Writing the History of St Giles*

**Alis Wood**, *Jessie Luckman, in her own words*

**Cost \$25.00**; prior registration essential for catering purposes.  
See separate speaker notes and registration form.

## October Talk

**Dr Nicholas Clements, *Frightened to Death: Colonists' Experience of Aboriginal Violence in Tasmania***

**Sunday 19 October 2014 – 2.00pm** at the Meeting Room, QVMAG Museum at Inveresk

## Spring Excursion to Springfield

**Robert Smith, Iris Meek and Jill Potter**

See the notice and reply slip on page 6 for information regarding the day trip to St Paul's Church, Springfield on **Sunday 26 October 2014**. Numbers are limited to 23, so don't delay in responding. **Cost is \$20.00** per person. Meet the bus at the car park in Eardley Street behind the RSL Club, Wellington Street, before 9.30am. The estimated time of return is 4.30pm.

## November Talk

**Steve Radford, *History of Telecommunications***

**Sunday 16 November 2014 – 2.00pm** at the Meeting Room, QVMAG Museum at Inveresk

## Band Rotundas

by Leonie Prevost



**Band Rotunda built in 1908, Stephen Spurling & Son No. 479.**  
**Launceston Local Studies Collection, pictures file.**

Concerts in the City Park were popular events, including those performed by St Joseph's Band conducted by the celebrated Alexander Frame Lithgow. He composed over 200 marches including the famous "Invercargill" which became a hit after it was played for Gallipoli veterans in London in 1916.

In 1907 the decision was made to replace the bandstand which had stood in the Park since 1887. It had become dilapidated and was in danger of blowing down. The favoured design was for a rotunda with a concrete foundation allowing space for a flower garden and a surrounding fence to separate the musicians from the public – especially boisterous children. Later the location of

the bandstand was changed. This was considered desirable to preserve the grass from both walkers and dancers.

From its construction in 1908, until at least the mid-twentieth century, regular weekend band recitals were held. Other bands to perform were the Railway Union Band, the Launceston City Band, the Orchestral Union and the Military Band.

In 1948, the rotunda needed renovation and repainting. The fence around it was removed and the area asphalted in place of the flower garden.

In 1954 a plaque to Lithgow was erected on the base of the rotunda. Two plaques were added in the 1960s: one commemorating Chester Edwards' sterling services rendered in the musical activities of Launceston, and the other to Neil Graham for 60 years of devoted service to brass bands.

The rotunda, of high heritage significance, is a fine, intact example of a Federation bandstand in a public park.

## Infamous House

*Launceston Examiner*, 6 November 1844, page 4:

A most notorious house in Balfour-street was lately visited by the police, who disturbed a large party of ticket-of-leave men and women. The house was suspected to be a favourite rendezvous for thieves, and an ingenuity in the construction of the premises strengthened the supposition. In the floor of the room was a trap-door, communicating with an underground passage, affording excellent opportunity for retreat in case of surprise.

## Members' Column

**New Members:** The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Robert & Lynne Mockridge and Jennifer Tidey.

**Recent Publication by Members:**

Nicholas Clements, *The Black War: Fear, Sex and Resistance in Tasmania*

Lucille Gee, *Relbia: Yesterday and Today 1806-2014*



**Cyril Baker is pictured at the middle back of this composite photograph with his brothers: Keith, Claude, Tom and Ralph. Cyril was the first Tasmanian to be killed in action during WW1. *Weekly Courier*, 27 July 1916, p. 23.**

## **Cyril Lefroy Baker (1892-1914)**

Tasmania has given of her blood in the Empire's service. Cyril Baker, wireless telegraphist on board the submarine AE 1, was a native of Tasmania, born at Lefroy, and one of the most enthusiastic and promising of the many young men from the state who sought to serve Australia and the Empire in the naval unit. Fourth son of Mr John Baker, a well-known miner, resident at different times at Lefroy, Mathinna, Avoca, and other mining centres, the youth was in his 22<sup>nd</sup> year, and had had about 3½ years' service in the Royal Australian Navy. He joined HMAS *Protector* when that vessel was in Launceston, and from the outset made a study of wireless telegraphy. Applying himself assiduously to the task, the lad successfully passed his examinations, and subsequently was transferred to HMAS *Encounter*. Upon the outbreak of hostilities between Great Britain and Germany, volunteers were asked for service on the submarines, and Cyril Baker was accepted as a wireless telegraphist on board the AE 1. He was a keen, intelligent, and industrious lad, well-known in the several mining communities in which his family had lived, and a lad who might have gone far in the service. *The Examiner*, 21 Sep 1914.

## **From the Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS)**

### **The Australian Heritage Strategy draft published**

A very pleasing development has been the publication of the draft Australian Heritage Strategy by the Department of Environment. The Federation has been advocating for such a strategy for many years. The previous government made a start but did not finalise it. You are urged to have a look at the document, since there are commitments in it which relate to community groups, including historical societies. The Federation has made a submission, and eventually this will be published on our website at <http://www.history.org.au>. The Heritage Strategy document can be read at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/australian-heritage-strategy/getting-involved>. The programs below are two of the commitments in the Strategy in which historical societies might wish to become involved.

### **Community and Heritage Icons Programme**

The Community Heritage and Icons Programme will provide \$1.4 million over three years to protect Australia's National Historic Sites and to provide funding in support of local historical or heritage groups for conservation, development and exhibition of local cultural heritage. Part of this funding will be used to assist the work of our Federation. It is to be regretted, however, that both the previous Your Community Heritage Programme and the Grants for Voluntary Environment, Sustainability and Heritage Organisations have become defunct.

### **Cultural heritage protection and conservation guidelines**

The formation of a Green Army is promoted as a hands-on, practical, grassroots environmental action program that supports local environment and heritage conservation projects across Australia. The program provides opportunities for young Australians aged between 17-24 years to gain training and experience in environmental and heritage conservation fields and to explore careers in conservation management, while participating in projects that generate real benefits for the environment. It is envisaged that community groups (sponsors) will make applications for local projects and will plan to play an important role in monitoring project progress. For more information Google 'Green Army'. If you are thinking of making an application, the Federation's *Cultural Landscapes Training Manual: a Guide for Historical Societies* – was developed by Robyn Ballinger in 2012 – might well be of assistance. It can be accessed at <http://www.history.org.au>.

Helen Henderson

## Other Items and Events of Interest

**New History of Launceston:** We are seeking expressions of interest from individuals wanting to contribute to a new collaborative history of Launceston: *The Fabric of Launceston*.

Please email us titles or topics for 500 to 750 word contributions to [tdunning@utas.edu.au](mailto:tdunning@utas.edu.au).

Tom Dunning, Paul Richards, Barbara Valentine, editors.

**Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery:** *The Great War 1914-18: Sacrifice and Shadows*. This exhibition includes an immersive soundscape and a searchable database of names linked to a Memorial Wall which will be populated with poppies, placed by visitors over the three-year life of the exhibition. Starts on 27 August 2014 and ends in August 2017.

**Northern Tasmanian Camera Club:** 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition of 80 photographs by current members and from the 1890s albums. Pictures can be purchased to assist the Launceston Benevolent Society. Country Club Tasmania, Prospect, Mezzanine Floor, from 30 August – 20 November 2014.

**Launceston LINC:** *Tasmania and the War 1914*. An exhibition of ephemera, photographs and newspapers from the Launceston Local Studies collections will be held at Launceston LINC, Civic Square, during August and September 2014. Cyril Lefroy Baker, the first Tasmanian to be killed in action during World War One, will be featured. For more information see his obituary on page 4.

**National Family History Month:** *World War One Service Photographs in The Weekly Courier*. Learn how to find, view, download, crop and edit photographs from *The Weekly Courier*. Training Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Launceston LINC, Civic Square, Thursday 28 August 2014, 10.30-11.30am. Bookings essential, phone 6777 2451.

**National Book Council:** Guest speaker for the August meeting is Dorothy Rosemann, author of *Dorothy Edwards, A Life Well Lived*. Wednesday, 20 August 2014, 1.15pm Phil Leonard Room, Launceston LINC, Civic Square.

**George Town & District Historical Society:** Meetings are held at *The Grove*: 18 August 2014, Angela Prosser Green, *Food of the Macquarie Era*; 15 September 2014, Alan Tolver-Banks, *Scilly Isle to George Town*. Email: [info@gtlhs.com](mailto:info@gtlhs.com). Web: [www.gtlhs.com](http://www.gtlhs.com).

**Tasmanian Historical Research Association:** Meetings take place in the Royal Society Room, Custom House, TMAG, Hobart, starting at 8.00pm: 12 August 2014, Eldershaw Lecture, Peter Stanley, *Honest History: desirable? necessary? possible?* (to be held in the Hobart Town Hall); 9 September 2014, Alison Alexander, *Maria and Edward Lord, and Hobart's rambunctious early years*.

### LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President	Marion Sargent	6331 4890
Vice-President	Catherine Pearce	
Minute Secretary	Catherine Pearce	
Correspondence Secretary	Prue McCausland	6331 2213
Treasurer	Leonie Prevost	6391 5511
Newsletter Editor	Marion Sargent	6331 4890
Publicity Officer	Terry Neal	6343 7940 0414 199 276

Postal address: PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Email: [launcestonhistory@gmail.com](mailto:launcestonhistory@gmail.com) Website: [www.launcestonhistory.org.au](http://www.launcestonhistory.org.au)

**Archaeology Group:** Enquiries to John Dent email: [john.dent@pda.com.au](mailto:john.dent@pda.com.au).

### Deadline

Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 Oct 2014** at [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com) or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.

# Springfield Excursion

Sunday 26 October 2014

**The Launceston Historical Society's Spring Excursion is to be hosted by the  
Friends of St Paul's, Springfield.**

Commentary will be provided by Robert Smith, Iris Meek and Jill Potter.

- 9.30 am Veterans and Community Bus departs from the car park behind the RSL Club, corner of Wellington and Eardley streets, South Launceston. Travel on the Tasman Highway via Waverley, Hunting Ground, Mt Edgecombe. Hear about the Launceston Water Scheme, Nunamara Hall and Jessie Simons.
- Passing through Nunamara – The Corners, Bourkes Road, Trout Creek, St Patricks River, Tom Burns, Goftons.
- 10.20 am Myrtle Park (comfort stop), River Made, Camden Road, Fishery, Corkery's Road.
- 11.00 am Sidling Lookout – comfort stop and refreshments.
- 11.45 am Visit St Paul's Anglican Church and Cemetery at Springfield.
- 12.45 pm Lunch at the Springfield Hall.  
Friends of St Paul's will provide soup, sandwiches, cakes, tea and coffee.  
History presentation.
- 1.30 pm Depart Springfield and head back to Launceston via the Sidling.
- 2.00 pm Turn off at Launceston side of the Sidling through Targa past Myrtle Bank, Faulkner's Hotel, John Skemp Field Centre, Lisle Road.
- 2.45 pm Visit All Souls Anglican Church and graveyard at Patersonia.
- 4.30 pm Proposed arrival back at RSL car park.

Please fill out and return the slip below with **\$20.00 per person** to: The Treasurer, Launceston Historical Society, PO Box 1296, Launceston, TAS 7250, or hand in at a Sunday meeting. Enquiries to Leonie Prevost: [reljprevost@bigpond.com](mailto:reljprevost@bigpond.com) or Marion Sargent: [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com), phone 6331 4890.

✂-----

<b>Springfield Excursion, Sunday 26 October 2014</b>	Return to:
Name.....	LHS Inc.
Address.....	PO Box 1296
Phone.....Mobile.....	LAUNCESTON TAS 7250
Email.....	<b>\$20.00 per person</b>