



Launceston Historical Society Inc.

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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 2011

The new committee for 2011-12 was elected at the AGM on Saturday 16 April; we warmly welcome the latest recruits: Terese Binns and Mary Hoggett. Marita Bardenhagen was appointed President for another term. The other committee members are: Marion Sargent (Vice-President), Leonie Prevost (Correspondence Secretary), Carol Fuller (Treasurer), Jon Addison, Jenny Gill, Gus Green, Andrew Gregg and Barney Reynolds. We sincerely thank John Dent – now resigned from the committee – for his invaluable contribution over the past years as Minute Secretary and knowledgeable historian. And thank you to Margaret Tassell who has agreed to continue liaising with the National Trust. Prue McCausland had kindly offered to edit the Papers & Proceedings.

The Examiner-John West Lecture

Professor Cassandra Pybus presented a provocative lecture on Gilbert Robertson, a "fascinating and mercurial man", in the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre at the University of Tasmania on Friday 11 March 2011. An appreciative audience of approximately 100 people heard how this son of a Scottish planter in the West Indies and his slave mistress came to Van Diemen's Land in 1822 where he spent over twenty years causing trouble, suing and being sued and producing a libellous newspaper. He was admired by John West but despised by Lady Jane Franklin who described him as 'a perfect miscreant equally devoid of principle and feeling'!



The Examiner-John West Lecturer Prof. Cassandra Pybus and Dr Marita Bardenhagen. Photo: M Sargent.

Membership Renewals

A **blue spot** on your newsletter (if posted) indicates that your subscription has not been paid. Please send your remittance as soon as possible to ensure that you receive the next newsletter. A renewal form was included with the February newsletter. One is also available online at <http://www.tco.asn.au>. Type 'LHS' in the search field; the renewal form and application to join are located on the right hand side of the 'Launceston Historical Society' page.

LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President	Marita Bardenhagen	6334 4490
Vice-President	Marion Sargent	6331 4890
Minute Secretary	Vacant	
Correspondence Secretary	Leonie Prevost	6391 5511
Treasurer	Carol Fuller	6331 1558
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Society Website: www.launcestonhistory.org.au

May Talk

Sunday 22 May 2011 – 2.30pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

Angela McGowan, *Historical Archaeology in Tasmania – an archaeliography*

Angela McGowan is an archaeologist who has lived and worked in Tasmania since the late 1970s. She was the archaeologist for the World Heritage Area for the Parks and Wildlife Service and also worked for the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Heritage Tasmania, and as a consultant. She has undertaken archaeological work at several historic and Aboriginal sites in Tasmania including Risdon Cove, Port Arthur, Sarah Island and some Ice Age caves in South West Tasmania, and has supervised conservation and management projects for historic and Aboriginal heritage.

'Archaeoliography' is a word Angie created with a similar interpretation to 'historiography'. It means the history of and products from archaeological research. Angela's talk will focus on the archaeoliography of historical archaeology in Tasmania. She will give an overview of the results of historical archaeological research, outlining what we currently know from nearly 40 years of historical archaeological work and identifying some current outstanding questions.

June Talk

Sunday 19 June 2011 – 2.30pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk.

Dr Jillian Koshin, *Lamonts of 'Braemar'*

Jillian, a member of the Launceston Historical Society since its founding, has served on the Committee for several years. She obtained a PhD in history and politics from Deakin University's School of Australian and International Studies. From that research came the book *Electric Eric: The Life and Times of Eric Reece, an Australian State Premier*. Her local history interests include the Inveresk/Invermay and the North Esk River/Tamar basin. In these areas she has conducted historical walks, including some for the LHS. More recently, Jillian has tutored Adult Education classes entitled 'Researching your Anzac ancestors'; and has carried out a heritage significance assessment of the property *Braemar*, 148 Vermont Road, for the Launceston City Council. Her presentation is based upon research conducted on John Lamont (who established *Braemar*), the Lamont family, and the neighbourhood around the property.

John Lamont arrived in Van Diemen's Land in 1819, making him one of Launceston's very early settlers. We owe our current water supply system to Lamont. He settled just north of the North Esk River, where his descendants lived until the early twentieth century. The talk tells something of their life, their neighbours and their experiences during the nineteenth century.

Annual Symposium

The Indian Connection with Tasmania



Speakers Dr Paul Edwards, Linda Clark and Dr James Broadbent.



Dr Nic Haygarth, Dr Marian Walker and Lionel Morrell. Photos: M Sargent.

The Annual Symposium held at the QVMAG on 16 April 2011 included six interesting papers on the Indian connection with Tasmania. The keynote speaker, **Dr James Broadbent**, spoke on military, mercantile and family links with India. He alerted the audience to the reality that some artefacts and furniture which were thought to be colonial now are known to be from India and China! **Linda Clark** gave the audience an insight into the colonial trade with India, focussing on the cargo that was on board the *Sydney Cove* which was wrecked on Preservation Island in the Furneaux Group. **Dr Paul Edwards** regaled us with tales from his family which encompassed war, greed and love – in British India.

Dr Marian Walker told how the salubrious climate of Tasmania was exploited to attract settlers and tourists from India – for the benefit of their health. **Dr Nic Haygarth** related the story of Theophilus Jones who had come here from being a harbour pilot in Bombay. He travelled through Tasmania selling life insurance and writing articles about the colony for *The Mercury* and *Tasmanian Mail*. The final speaker, **Lionel Morrell**, demonstrated the influence many Anglo-Indian settlers brought, not only on architecture, but in steering Tasmania from a convict colony to a smart, educated and organised society.

Advance Notice of Activities

Sunday 10 July 2011: Dr Anne Neale, *Guide to Launceston's architecture*

Sunday 21 August 2011: Associate Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, *Sickness and death amongst convicts*

Sunday 18 September 2011: Robyn Lake, *Trade trails ... convict cabinetmakers transported during the Assignment Period 1804-1839*

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: Steve Radford, *Holymans – 150 years*

Sunday 4 December 2011: Richard Mulvaney, *Reflections on his first year at the QVMAG*. Venue to be advised.

Members' Column

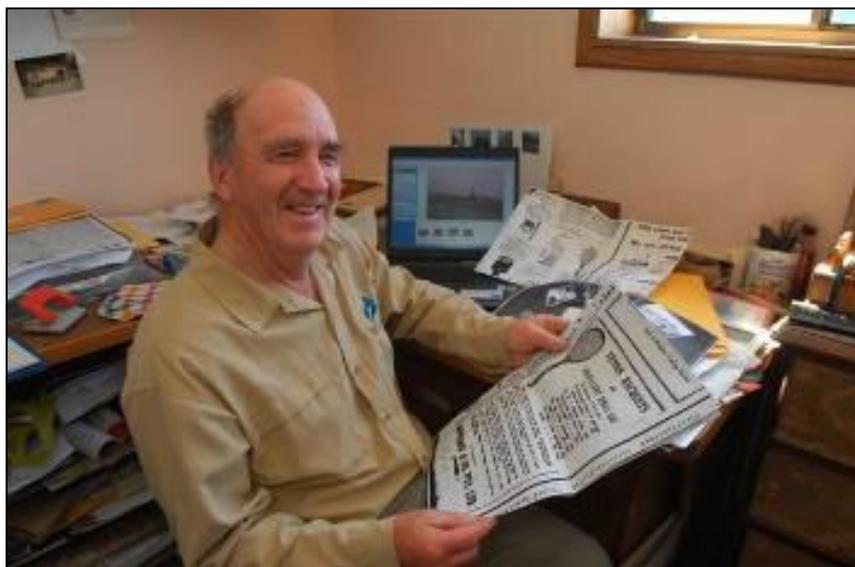
New Members: The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Jim Garnsworthy, Prof. Pam Sharpe, Tony Walker, Tony Cole and Prof. Gweneth Norris.

Archaeology Group: This year's meetings will be on 31 May, 30 August and 29 November 2011 at 1.00pm at the Phil Leonard Room, Launceston LINC. On Friday 11 March John Dent led a group excursion to the Kerry Lodge site and uncovered much of the remaining foundations of the building.

Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women: Patricia Ratcliff (1928-2010) was awarded posthumously a place on the Honour Roll in recognition of her service to cultural heritage.

Papers and Proceedings: The LHS 2010 Papers and Proceedings are available for sale at \$12.00.

Christopher 'Gus' Green, oAM, Committee Member



**Gus Green in his Murphy Street office.
Photo: Courtesy Paul Scambler.**

Gus was born in Launceston and educated at the Launceston Church Grammar School. During his working life, he spent some 18 years in electrical cable distribution. He left the industry in 1976 to establish his own importing business of handling woodwork machinery and sail boats.

From those beginnings, with a friend he set up a flexible foam distribution business and became involved in the fit-out of nine Sea Cats in Hobart. It was one day during this time, over a cuppa, that Gus and a fellow Lions Club member discussed the condition of the North Esk River.

Their conversation led to the establishment of the North Esk River Restoration Project, "The Ribbon of

Blue", which became the largest urban Landcare project in Australia (1989) and is ongoing today.

Gus remains deeply concerned with the city of Launceston and how people treat it. He was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2001 and an Australia Day Honour in 2006.

Gus Green's interest in history stems from his involvement with the Launceston Family Album Project when he stumbled upon portraits of his Price family. Delving further into his family history, he discovered that his great-grandfather, Robert Henry Price, was the Mayor of Launceston in 1894 at the time that the Duck Reach Power Station was built. In 1828, his great-great-grandfather Robert Price, a saddler, came out on the *Caroline* with James Henty to the Swan River. Then in 1832 he sailed to Launceston on the *Cornwallis*.

Research into the Hopwood branch of his family led Gus to explore the history of the Alexander Patent Racket Company. The Company was formed in 1925; production began in May 1926 and, by the end of that year, the Alexander range of racquets was available at every sports store in Australia. At the beginning of 1930 there were 130 employees at the factory which had produced some 60,000 racquet frames and had established export markets to many countries. The flat top racquet was introduced in 1931. When Jack Crawford won Wimbledon in 1933 with his Alexander Cressy Wizard – the first totally Australian-made racquet to win a world championship – it became famous across the globe.

The factory also produced cricket bats, badminton and squash racquets, furniture, wooden bicycle rims and, during the Second World War, ammunition boxes. Heritage-listed in 2009, the factory building on the corner of Abbott and Wentworth Streets, Newstead, is a Launceston landmark. Now Gus has written a book, *What a Racket!*, which will be launched on 27 May 2011.

What a Racket! can be pre-ordered for \$45.00. Contact Gus by email: prossergreen@vision.net.au or phone 0408 355 561.

Recent Publications by Members

Keith Adkins, *Reading in Colonial Tasmania: The early years of the Evandale Subscription Library*, Ancora Press, Monash University, 2011.

Part of the series 'Convicts of Van Diemen's Land: How they shaped Tasmania, Readers' Stories':

Douglas Burbury, 'Bridge is a testament to talented tradesman', in *The Examiner*, 23 March 2011, p. 22.

Jenny Gill, 'Horse thief who found respect', in *The Examiner*, 2 March 2011, p. 24.

Peter MacFie, 'Thomas Meagher, Sergeant Daniel Murphy and the Bennett family: Some enduring connections at Richmond, Tasmania', in *Papers and Proceedings of the Tasmanian Historical Research Association*, Vol. 58, No. 1, April 2011, pp. 100-114.

Catherine M Pearce, 'Daniel Herbert: Colonial Caravaggio?', in *Papers and Proceedings of the Tasmanian Historical Research Association*, Vol. 58, No. 1, April 2011, pp. 46-60.

Dianne Snowden, '"A most humane regulation"? Free children transported with convict parents', in *Papers and Proceedings of the Tasmanian Historical Research Association*, Vol. 58, No. 1, April 2011, pp. 33-41.

Eric Ratcliff spoke on 'Queen Victoria and I' at the QVMAG Morning Coffee Lecture Series on 27 April 2011. This is part of the Oral Histories of Launceston and Northern Tasmania programme.

History Prize 2011

Once again the Launceston Historical Society is conducting a history competition for school children. This year's topic is 'Australian Women Building Our Nation' in recognition of the centenary of International Women's Day. There are eight sections from grades 3 to 10, with a \$50.00 book voucher prize to be awarded in each category. The Ratcliff Prize, worth \$50.00, will be awarded to the best researched and presented entry overall. Carol Fuller is co-ordinating the competition with local schools. Entries are to be submitted by Friday 23rd September.

In addition, a \$50.00 book voucher prize will be awarded to one history student from each of the six colleges with Senior Secondary classes in Launceston. These are to be selected by their teachers. And a prestigious prize of \$400.00 will be presented to the best first year history student attending the Launceston campus of the University of Tasmania. The total prize pool will be \$1,150.00. These awards are designed to foster an interest in history amongst the younger generation.

Macquarie House Redevelopment

Two proposals have been submitted to the Launceston City Council regarding the redevelopment of Macquarie House in Civic Square. Dr Alex Thomson and LHS President Dr Marita Bardenhagen have proposed that the historic building be used as *The Launceston and Tamar Valley History Centre*. A meeting is expected to be held in June, chaired by Don Wing, to develop a common direction for interested community groups. See *The Examiner* 7 May 2011 page 14 for more information.

Can You Help?

Narryna Dress Collection: PhD student Jennifer Moncrieff of the Australian National University is researching the dress collection at Narryna Heritage Museum, Battery Point. She would like to hear from anyone with an interest or expertise in the study of historic dress or the local manufacturing of clothing in colonial Hobart. Please contact Jennifer by email: Jennifer.Moncrieff@anu.edu.au

Other Items and Events of Interest

National Book Council: Guest speaker for the May meeting is Anton Lade, author of *Three Indians and a caterpillar: Destination Cradle Mountain 1828-1935*. Wednesday, 18 May 2011, 1.15pm, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston LINC, Civic Square.

Check Out Civic Square: The theme for Library and Information Week 2011 is *Libraries: we find stuff!* The TAHO team at the Launceston LINC is conducting a tour of the historic buildings, statues, plaques and gardens in Civic Square. Meet on the ground floor of the Library building, Civic Square, Thursday, 26 May 2011, 2.00pm. The walk will take about one hour; then see "stuff" about the history of the Square in the Phil Leonard Room. Enquiries: phone 6336 2642.

George Town and District Historical Society: The next three meetings for 2011 will be: 18 July, Forum "*In My Travels*"; 15 August, Celebrations in Regent Square.

Tasmanian Historical Research Association: Upcoming meetings are to be held at the Royal Society Room, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, starting at 8.00 pm. 12 July, Lucy Frost, *Scottish female convicts in Van Diemen's Land*; 9 August, Ian Terry, *A question of values: an oral history of the Gordon-below-Franklin dam debate*. www.thra.org.au

From Lamingtons to Lasers – Our Agricultural Heritage: The Tasmanian Heritage Festival will continue daily throughout the month of May 2011. The Festival programme is available on the National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) web site: www.nationaltrusttas.org.au

Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame: Nominations are being called for mining people to be inducted into the Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame, Kalgoorlie. The nominations close by COB on 30 June 2011. Candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame must be individuals who have demonstrated outstanding lifetime achievements for the benefit of the Australian minerals industry. Any person may nominate a miner. A nomination pack is available from the APMHOF, phone: 08 9026 2700; email: admin@mininghall.com.

Getting the public into public history: PHANZA Conference, Massey University, Wellington, New Zealand, 1-2 July 2011. <http://www.phanza.org.nz/>

History at the Edge: The Australian Historical Association Regional Conference will be held from Monday 4 to Friday 8 July 2011 at the University of Tasmania, Inveresk Campus, Launceston. Over 20 of our members plan to present papers on various topics. This includes a Launceston Historical Society panel to be chaired by LHS President Dr Marita Bardenhagen on *Sources of Launceston History*. The registration form is available here: <http://www.ahahistoryattheedge.org/index.html>

Day of Archaeology 2011: is an online project that will allow archaeologists – professional and volunteers – working all over the world, to document what they do on one day, 29 July 2011. Archaeologists taking part in the project will document their day through photographs, videos and written blog posts. These then will be collected on the website which will provide a glimpse into a day in the life of people working and volunteering in all areas of archaeology, from archaeological excavations to laboratories, universities, community archaeology groups, education services, museums and offices. It is free to join, and organised and managed by a team of UK-based volunteers. For more details, visit our website, <http://www.dayofarchaeology.com/> or email us for further information and to sign up, dayofarchaeology@gmail.com. Lorna Richardson, Honorary Research Assistant, University College London.

Centre for Tasmanian Historical Studies: *Tasmanian Historical Studies Volume 15* is now available for \$30.00 each, plus postage. See attached order form: http://www.utas.edu.au/history_classics/publications/THS%20Vol%2015_2010.html

Thomas Ryan Photography: Here are some photographic websites which may be of interest: 20th Century Modernist Architecture of Australia, www.tryanphotos.com; Art Deco & Modernism Architecture in Tasmania, <http://modernismtas.blogspot.com/>; and Art Deco & Modernism Architecture in Australia, <http://modernaus.blogspot.com/> Phone: 0448 144 186.

Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the 14 June 2011 LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **1 June 2011**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 July 2011** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.