

# QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 14

## LAUNCESTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY COLLECTION

Gardening, Launceston  
Horticulture, Launceston

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## INTRODUCTION

The Launceston Horticultural Society is believed to be the oldest society of its type in continuous existence in Australia. It was a direct outcome of the great horticultural movement of the late 18th and early 19th centuries in Britain coinciding with the development of the Australian colonies. More indirectly, it owes its origins to Sir Joseph Banks who, with William Jackson Hooker, set up the Royal Horticultural Society in London. Hooker (Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew) persuaded Ronald Campbell Gunn and Robert William Lawrence to collect Tasmanian plants for London herbariums and gardens. Encouraged by the then Governor, Sir John Franklin (and Lady Franklin), Gunn decided to form a similar society in Launceston. The first meeting was held on 4 July 1838, R C Gunn becoming the first President, and the first show followed on 19 December the same year. The Society had 48 members initially, but by the end of the 1840s, there were 122 subscribers. In January 1868 it amalgamated with a rival group, the Gardeners and Amateurs Horticultural Society (established 27 December 1849), and the new organisation had its first flower exhibition on 18 February 1868.

In 1841, following a petition, the Launceston Horticultural Society was given a 21-year lease to develop the Launceston Horticultural Gardens on the site of today's City Park. By 1862, the Gardens took up 9 acres of land. However, following a period of economic depression and associated financial difficulties, they were taken over by the Launceston Corporation on 28 October 1863 for the enjoyment of the people of Launceston.

The aims of the Society are to:

- Promote interest in all aspects of horticulture,
- Hold exhibitions and meetings to effect that interest and encourage improvement  
In its methods and products

Membership is by subscription, and is open to those with amateur, professional and specialist interests.

The Society has regular meetings, holds four shows each year (February, May, September, November), organises Garden Weekends, visits to other flower shows, outstanding gardens and places of horticultural interest, and encourages young people through awards at its own shows and to outstanding students in TAFE horticultural courses.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in March and May 1998 and February 1999. Items 7/1 and 7/2 were received in September 1989. More recent donations have been recorded in subsequent revisions.

## ***1. Legal Records***

1/1	Constitution (typescript), and copy of Hobart Horticultural Society <i>Constitution and Rules</i> , 1964)	1964
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## ***2. Minutes of Meetings and Annual Reports***

2/1	Minute book of meetings, October 1948-July 1960 (includes list of committee members at front of volume and annual reports 1949-1951)	1948-1960
2/2	Minute book of meetings, October 1960-Mar 1966 (includes list of committee members 1960-1961 at front of volume and statement of receipts for Daffodil Show 1965)	1960-1966
2/3	Minute book of meetings, April 1966-January 1981 (includes report of Chrysanthemum Show, May 1967)	1966-1981
2/4	Minute book of meetings, March 1981-August 1988 (includes annual reports 1984-1987, and statements of receipts and expenditure 1985-1988)	1981-1988
2/5	Minute book of annual general meetings and annual reports (includes statements of receipts and expenditure and floral group annual reports 1967-1976)	1952-1980
2/6	Minute book of sesqui-centenary committee meetings, June 1987-December 1988	1987-1988
2/7	Minutes of meetings and annual reports (includes minutes of various annual general meetings, committee and special committee meetings, Chrysanthemum meeting, Ross August 1986, annual and other reports 1965-1990, and statements of receipts and expenditure 1959-1989)	1955-1990
2/8	Annual reports (includes annual financial statements)	1997-1999
2/9	Annual Reports Launceston Spring Garden Competition	1999-2000
2/10	Minutes book of meetings and Annual General Meetings (including annual financial reports) October 1988-April 1995	1988-1995
2/11	Minutes book of meetings and Annual General Meetings (including annual financial reports) May 1995-January 2002	1995-2002
2/12	Membership Register	1982-2000
2/13	Annual reports	2003-2017

### 3. Correspondence

- 3/1 Correspondence re Albert Hall bookings; Society meetings; 1965-1981  
flower shows; growers; National Agricultural and Pastoral  
Society; K Heazlewood; F Bygraves etc
- 3/2 Correspondence re flower shows; judges; trophies; 1984-1986  
Tasmanian Daffodil Council; L Clark; Rotary Club garden  
Display; Windmill Hill hall; publicity
- 3/3 Correspondence re Launceston Orchid Society; flower 1986-1987  
shows; Launceston Community Banner Project; judges;  
Clarendon; Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria;  
Australian Bicentennial; Franklin House; Mt Eliza  
Morning Garden Club
- 3/4 Correspondence re Mt Eliza Morning Garden Club; 1987-1988  
flower shows; judges; speakers; Sequi-Centenary;  
TAFE awards; North-West Tasmanian Liliium Society;  
Badges; Tasmanian Endemic Flora Park etc
- 3/5 Correspondence re sesqui-centenary 1987-1988
- 3/6 Correspondence re Windmill Hill Memorial Hall; speakers; 1988-1989  
judges; floral art group; flower shows; TSIT courses and  
awards; vice-regal patronage; Burwood; Launceston  
Showgrounds (plan); Tasmanian Orchid Conference; sashes  
etc
- 3/7 Correspondence re committee members; accounts; Lilydale 1989-1990  
Garden Walk; speakers; flower shows; Launceston Garden  
Festival (includes exhibition floor plan and memorandum of  
agreement); TAFE awards; Chicago Horticultural Society;  
floral art etc
- 3/8 Correspondence A-G, re judges; flower shows; vice-regal 1990-1993  
patronage; library; visits; sponsorship; Launceston Garden  
Festival (includes certificates of recognition, leaflets);  
membership; City Park Radio; Brown Mountain Nursery  
and Gardens (includes leaflets); Australian Chrysanthemum  
Council etc
- 3/9 Correspondence H-Q, re judges; flower shows; membership; 1990-1993  
sponsorship; Hobart Horticultural Society; Longford Garden  
Club; Margaret McIntyre House; sashes; Lindisfarne Garden  
Club; Northern Tasmanian Liliium Society; Launceston City  
Council; schools; Landcare (includes *Landcare News* (3 issues))

3/10	Correspondence R-Z, re Inner City Launceston Project; judges; visits; Self Help Workshop (annual reports); Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria; flower shows; Southern Tasmanian Cactus and Succulent Club (includes Club <i>News</i> (2 issues); membership; sponsorship; schools; library; Tasmanian Floral Art Society; Tasmanian Daffodil Council; TAFE awards; Wynyard Garden Club; Elizabeth Gardens; Westbury Garden Club; Wynyard Tulip Festival	1990-1993
3/11	Correspondence relating to activities of the Society	1994
3/12	Correspondence relating to activities of the Society	1995
3/13	Correspondence relating to the activities of the Society	1996-1997
3/14	Correspondence relating to activities of the Society	1998
3/15	Correspondence relating to activities of the Society	2003
3/16	Correspondence re Ronald Campbell Gunn statue project	2006
3/17	Correspondence between Society and author, Gwenda Sheridan, re publication of, <i>The Launceston Horticultural Society: A History</i>	2008

#### **4. Flower Show Records**

4/1	Attendance register	1987-1997
4/2	Cut flowers results register	1984-1988
4/3	Schedules (incomplete)	1986-2005
4/4	Trophy book	1959-1980
4/5	Schedules - Spring Flower Show (missing 2011), Autumn Flower Show	1995-2014
4/6	Rose, Iris & Rhododendron Show, Dahlia, Gladioli & Lilium Show	1998-2015
4/7	Launceston Spring Garden Competition	2002

#### **5. Projects**

5/1.1	RC Gunn statue project report	2002-2006
5/1.2	RC Gunn statue project report	2002-2006
5/2	150 <sup>th</sup> and 175 <sup>th</sup> anniversaries	1988, 2013

#### **6. Ephemera**

6/1	Launceston organisations: Launceston Horticultural Society leaflets; stationary; 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Spring Show souvenir program 23-25 September 1988; 150th Anniversary Show display posters and invitation; Launceston Garden Festival; TAFE; New Horizons Club; Launceston Orchid Society	1987-1992
6/2	Other Tasmanian organisations: Devonport Chrysanthemum Club; Australian Liliun Society (North West Tasmanian Branch); Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden (Burnie); Circular Head Garden Club; Westbury Garden Club; Lindisfarne Garden Club; Rose Society of Tasmania; Hobart Horticultural Society	1985-1990
6/3	Other Tasmanian organisations: Australian Bicentennial National Canary Exhibition 1988; Garden Week, Hobart, 1986	1986-1988
6/4	Mainland and overseas organisations: Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria; Chicago Botanic Gardens; Floriade, ACT; Australian Liliun Society; 1st Australian International Herb Conference; Australian Horticultural Judges Association; New Zealand Autumn Garden Discovery Tour 1987; Australian Chrysanthemum Council; Australian Bicentennial Exhibition	1987-1990
6/5	Newspaper clippings and scrapbooks	1987-2006
6/6	Launceston Horticultural Society Award certificates – best exhibit; Grand Champion Bloom; Launceston Spring Garden Competition; Spring promotional flyer	2000

### ***7. Photographs and Video***

7/1	150th Anniversary Spring Flower Show album, compiled by P Stearnes and P Wellington (includes photographs, show results and certificates, fliers, newspaper cuttings, souvenir program)	1988
7/2	Video of 150th Anniversary Spring Flower Show	1988
7/3	RC Gunn project photo album	2006
7/4	Unveiling of Gunn statue - CD	2006
7/5	Interview re: Gunn statue project - CD	2006
7/6	Scanned articles, archival material & book manuscript - CDs	2000-2006
7/7	Photograph album	1970s-2013

**OTHER SOURCES**

*The Launceston landscape* - Launceston Horticultural Society Periodical  
QVMAG Library Call No: 635.099465

QVMAG, Community History, CHS 13; CHS 33

QVMAG, Community History, Secondary file, 'Launceston - Horticultural Society'

QVMAG, LCC 1, various items in correspondence series 1853-1906; LCC 3, 1922-1975, eg  
7/1.1, 8/1.3, 8/1.20

Launceston Reference Library, Local History Collection, newspaper cuttings file, 'Launceston Horticultural Society'

Henry Button, *Flotsam and jetsam*, Launceston, facsimile ed., 1993, pp 166-167

QVM:2015:H:0067 – Trophy, Rose Cup

QVM:2015:H:0068 – Trophy, Centenary Cup

QVM:2015:H:0069 – Trophy, Daffodil Cup

QVM:2015:H:0070 – Trophy, George Whitfield Memorial Trophy

QVM:2015:H:0071 – Trophy, Thomas Sherriff Daffodil Cup

QVM:2015:H:0072 – Trophy, A.D. Mackay Perpetual Rose Trophy Open

QVM:2015:H:0073 – Trophy

QVM:2015:H:0074 – Trophy, A.D. Mackay Perpetual Rose Trophy – Amateur

QVM:2015:H:0075 – Trophy, Launceston Horticultural Society Special School Section Perpetual

QVM:2015:H:0076 – Trophy, Charles Davis Memorial Trophy

QVM:2015:H:0077 – Trophy Plaque, Launceston Garden Festival Gold Award

QVM:2015:H:0078 – Souvenir spoon

QVM:2015:H:0079 – Book Mark, 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show 1838-1988

QVM:2015:H:0080 – Trophy, M.Lowe Grand Champion Dahlia

QVM:2015:H:0081 – Trophy, G.H.Cleaver Memorial Trophy

QVM:2015:H:0082 – Trophy, Harry R. Bulman Perpetual Memorial Trophy