

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 49

LAUNCESTON DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION COLLECTION

Nurses, Launceston

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INTRODUCTION

The Launceston District Nursing Association (LDNA) was formed in 1893 to provide skilled nursing for the sick poor in their own homes. Entirely unsectarian in character, it was managed by an executive committee appointed annually at the annual meeting. A number of doctors gave advice and prescribed gratuitously, and several chemists provided medicines without charge. William Barnes was the first chairman, Mrs Grace Soltau, secretary, and Hardwicke Weedon the treasurer. Two committee members gave outstanding service to the Association: Hardwicke Weedon was chairman from c.1899 to 1936, and Miss Edith Mosey secretary from 1894 to 1930.

The duties of the nurse were stated clearly in the rules. A complaint made in 1896 that Nurse Edith Moore, the first nurse, had engaged in religious work whilst performing her duties led to her dismissal. She became the first nurse of the Launceston Evangelical Nursing Association set up that year with similar aims, but its nurse was also expected to act as a missionary. Cordial relations existed between the two associations.

The committee met each month, when the nurse's diary was examined and the number of her visits recorded. Unfortunately the nurses' diaries have not survived. Occasional glimpses of the work performed are gleaned from the nurses' letters to the secretary.

A request was made to the Launceston City Council for a free tram pass for the nurse in 1911, the year a tram service commenced in the city. However it was not until 1922 that the Council issued a pass to the nurse, provided that the LDNA contributed £5 per annum.

The Association relied on subscriptions and donations until 1957 and fund raising was always a problem. A grant from the Guesdon Charities Bequest, first received in 1898, several bequests, including money from the T and C Bourke Memorial Trust received annually from 1929, and funds from George Adams' Estate were of great assistance. Increasing financial difficulties led to a grant from the State Government in 1957. Two years later the Federal Government provided a subsidy.

The association's final meeting was held on 20 November 1973, after which time it was incorporated in the Cosgrove Park Domiciliary Service, with headquarters at Cosgrove Park.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in November 1973, and was previously registered as 1973/79/15.

1. Legal Records

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|-----|---|-----------|
| 1/1 | <i>Launceston District Nursing Association. Founded 25th July, 1893. Officers & committee 1893-94</i> (6 page pamphlet, also variant copy of 5 pages, lists rules and by-laws) | 1893-1894 |
| 1/2 | <i>Launceston District Nursing Association: founded July, 1893, first annual report</i> (includes amendment to a rule and new rule, financial statement, rules and by-laws) | 1894 |
| 1/3 | Launceston District Nursing Association, constitution. (2 variant typed copies) | nd |

2. Minutes of Meetings

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|-----|--|-----------|
| 2/1 | Launceston District Nursing Association, minute book of committee meetings (includes <i>Launceston Examiner</i> reports of first meeting on 25 July 1893, and 1894 and 1895 annual meetings; <i>Daily Telegraph</i> report of 1894 annual meeting) | 1893-1895 |
| 2/2 | Minute book of committee meetings (includes <i>Examiner</i> reports of 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902; <i>Daily Telegraph</i> 1903 annual meeting, minutes of 1904, 1905, 1906 and 1907 annual meetings and newspaper reports) | 1899-1908 |
| 2/3 | Minute book of committee meetings (includes minutes of 1908, 1909, 1910 and 1911 annual meetings and newspaper reports) | 1908-1911 |
| 2/4 | Minute book of committee meetings (includes minutes of 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915 and 1916 annual meetings and newspaper reports) | 1912-1917 |
| 2/5 | Minute book of committee meetings (includes minutes of 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920 and 1921 annual meetings and newspaper reports) | 1917-1922 |
| 2/6 | Minute book of committee meetings (includes minutes of 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926 annual meetings and newspaper reports) | 1922-1927 |
| 2/7 | Minute book of committee meetings (includes minutes of 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931 and 1932 annual meetings and newspaper reports; <i>Examiner</i> reports of deaths of Nurse Nellie Kenner and Miss Kate Farrell) | 1927-1933 |
| 2/8 | Minute book of committee meetings (includes minutes of 1933 annual meeting and newspaper report; minutes of 1935 annual meeting; minutes of 1937 annual meeting and newspaper report, | 1933-1949 |

minutes of 1938, 1939, 1940, 1942-1948 annual meetings)

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| 2/9 | Minute book of committee meetings (includes minutes of 1949-1953 annual meetings) | 1949-1955 |
| 2/10 | Minutes of committee meetings (includes minutes of 1959 annual meeting) | 1959-1960? |
| 2/11 | Minutes of committee meetings | 1961?-1963 |
| 2/12 | Minutes of committee meetings | 1963-1964 |

3. Annual Reports

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|-----|---|----------------------------|
| 3/1 | Annual reports to 31 July, 1906; 1907; 1908, with notes; 1909, with draft; 1910-1912; 1915-1927; 1938-1953; 1968 (see also minutes of meetings) | 1906-1968,
(incomplete) |
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4. Correspondence

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| 4/1 | Miscellaneous correspondence | 1893-1901 |
| 4/6 | Miscellaneous correspondence | 1902-1911 |
| 4/10 | Miscellaneous correspondence | 1905-1908 |
| 4/14 | Miscellaneous correspondence | 1909-1910 |
| 4/17 | Miscellaneous correspondence | 1911-1930s |

5. Financial Records

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| 5/1 | Miscellaneous records: donation notebooks, receipts and expenditure, Commonwealth Savings Bank statements, accounts and miscellaneous donations | 1902-1955 |
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6. Miscellaneous Items

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| 6/1 | List of donations of goods; <i>The Launceston District Nursing Association and Nurse Moore</i> , Launceston, [1896] (pamphlet explaining reason for dismissal of Nurse Moore), Notes for annual reports; List of patients in Lodges, List of committee members; reports; correspondence; applications; Histories of the LDNA; invitations; List of LDNA correspondence, 1894-1933 | 1894-1959 |
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OTHER SOURCES

Launceston Reference Library, Launceston Evangelical Nursing Association (manuscript)

Cyclopedia of Tasmania, Hobart, 1900, vol.2, p.49, article on the Launceston District Nursing Association.

Barbara Valentine, 'Early Launceston nursing associations', *The Archive* (newsletter of the Launceston General Hospital Historical Committee), April 1999, no. 33.