

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 69

LAUNCESTON TATTLERS COLLECTION

**Authors, Northern Tasmania
Women, Northern Tasmania**

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INTRODUCTION

Launceston Tatlers was founded in 1962 by Pip Horner (previously a member of the Adelaide Tatlers' Club) with the aim of bringing together a group of women who were interested in writing and to further explore that interest.

Meetings are held each month, except January, at members' homes. From its inception Launceston Tatlers elected office bearers, kept minutes and organised venues and activities, maintaining a structured procedure according to a six-month program. Two social functions, in July and December, were held each year.

The oral presentation of papers written to a specific topic by members was the principal activity of a Tatlers meeting, with a book reviewed over the summer discussed at the February meeting. The minutes contain a precis of every paper presented. Papers presented at meetings were placed in the archives, and once a year voted on for permanent retention, a system abandoned in the 1980s when every paper was archived.

Membership has fluctuated during Tatlers' history. The first constitution set a membership limit of 20 and throughout the 1960s there was an extensive waiting list. There were references to the need for a membership drive during the 1970s and at the end of the 1980s; after that time numbers remained constant between 10 and a dozen.

Although Tatlers published some papers in simple hand made booklets in 1966 and 1967, then more ambitiously in 1985, the group's major publication is the substantial and impressively produced *An inspired pursuit: forty years of writing by women of Northern Tasmania*, Canberra, Karuda Press, 2002. The book contains over 80 pieces of writing, prose and poetry, fiction and non-fiction, on diverse subjects, taken from the group's archives. It is a small sample of some 600 papers archived since 1962. The book also includes a comprehensive history of the Tatlers.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in March 2003. Further material covering the period 2003-2007 was donated in August 2012.

1. Legal Records

1/1	Rules and regulations of the Tatlers' Club	nd
1/2	Launceston Tatlers, revised rules and regulations, August 2000 (includes 'On rules & regulations report review', by Eve Holmes, nd)	2000

2. Minutes of Meetings

2/1	Launceston Tatlers, minutes of meetings, 3 April 1962-5 December 1967 (includes notes on the Adelaide Tatlers' Club)	1962-1967
2/2	Minutes of meetings, 13 February 1968-3 December 1974	1968-1974
2/3	Minutes of meetings, 11 February 1975-12 September 1979	1975-1979
2/4	Minutes of meetings, 10 October 1979-December 1986	1979-1986
2/5	Minutes of meetings, 17 February 1987-13 November 1990	1987-1990
2/6	Minutes of meetings, 12 February 1991-11 April 1995	1991-1995
2/7	Minutes of meetings, 9 May 1995-10 October 1999	1995-1999
2/8	Minutes of meetings, 9 November 1999-20 November 2002	1999-2002
2/9	Minutes of meetings, 11 February 2003-13 November 2007	2003-2007
2/10	Minutes of committee meetings	1962-1973
2/11	Minutes of meetings, 9 October 2007-8 September 2009	2007-2009
2/12	Minutes of meetings, 10 November 2009-8 June 2010	2009-2010
2/13	Meeting papers, March 2008-November 2010	2008-2010
2/14	Minutes of meetings, June 2010-November 2016	2010-2016
2/15	Meeting papers, March 2008-August 2011	2008-2011
2/16	Meeting papers, November 2010-June 2015	2010-2015
2/17	Meeting papers, September 2011-November 2016	2011-2016
2/18	Meeting papers, August 2015-November 2016	2015-2016
2/19	Meeting papers, February 2017-November 2018	2017-2018

3. Correspondence

3/1	Correspondence	1962-1967
3/2	Correspondence	1968-1984
3/3	Correspondence	1985-2002
3/4	Correspondence concerning publication and launch of <i>An inspired pursuit</i>	2002-2003
3/5	Correspondence	2003-2006

4. Manuscripts

4/1	Launceston Tatlers, original stories/papers, with index	1962-1967
4/2	Original stories/papers	1968-1977
4/3	Original stories/papers	1978-1987
4/4	Original stories/papers	1988-1992
4/5	Original stories/papers	1993-1996
4/6	Original stories/papers	1997-1999
4/7	Original stories/papers	2000-2002
4/8	Original stories/papers parts 1&2 (two copies: one original, one peer-reviewed & proof-read)	2003
4/9	Original stories/papers parts 1&2 (two copies: one original, one peer-reviewed & proof-read)	2004
4/10	Original stories/papers parts 1&2 (two copies: one original, one peer-reviewed & proof-read)	2005
4/11	Original stories/papers parts 1&2 (two copies: one original, one peer-reviewed & proof-read)	2006
4/12	Original stories/papers parts 1&2 (two copies: one original, one peer-reviewed & proof-read)	2007

5.Publications

5/1	<i>Tatlers</i>	[1966]
5/2	<i>Tatlers</i>	[1967]
5/3	<i>Tatlers together: a friendly anthology</i>	1985
5/4	Launceston Tatlers, <i>An inspired pursuit: forty years of writing by women of Northern Tasmania</i> , Canberra, Karuda Press, 2002 (see also 3/4)	2002
5/5	Original manuscript of <i>An inspired pursuit</i> , part 1, first draft	2002
5/6	Original manuscript of <i>An inspired pursuit</i> , part 2, first draft	2002
5/7	Edited copy of manuscript of <i>An inspired pursuit</i> , part 1	2002
5/8	Edited copy of manuscript of <i>An inspired pursuit</i> , part 2	2002
5/9	Material relating to publication of <i>An inspired pursuit</i> , from commencement of process to launch of book (includes 2 cassettes and two compact discs - one being a group portrait of members, the other being contents of the book)	2002
5/10	Working documents for preparation of the second book "An Inspired Pursuit" Volume II	nd

6.Programs/Topics

6/1	Programs	1964-2003
6/2	Programs	2003-2007
6/3	Story topics	1962-1986

7.Membership Lists

7/1	Incomplete membership lists, original membership joining forms	1971-1998
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8. Photographs

8/1 Photographs of members 1984-2002

9. Miscellaneous Records

9/1 Record of Tatler archiving procedures 1962-1989

9/2 Annual luncheon menus, incomplete set 1964-1985

9/3 Reviews of books read over summer 1983-1999,
nd

9/4 Writing techniques and criticism 1970-1985,
nd

9/5 Extra activities presented at meetings 1993-1995

9/6 Lists, ephemera, correspondence and working papers
associated with *An inspired pursuit* 2002-2003

9/7 Activities and writings from lunches etc 1966-1991

9/8 Sundry activities nd

9/9 'The whistling kettle', a collaborative writing
exercise, unfinished? 1965

10. Miscellaneous Items

10/1 Helen Roberts-Thomson papers (written for Tatlers,
writing classes and her own stories) 1967-1983,
nd

10/2 Recorded stories by Tatlers members in mp3 format, stored
on 2 USB devices (identical content on both devices) 2015-2018

OTHER SOURCES

QVMAG, Community History, 2003.OH.14