

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 64

BENDER & CO. PTY LTD COLLECTION

Businesses, Launceston
Fruit Industry, Northern Tasmania

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INTRODUCTION

Leonard Bender commenced business as a small goods manufacturer in Elizabeth Street, Launceston in 1889. By 1906 he was a pork butcher, ham and bacon curer, small goods manufacturer and dairy produce merchant at 110 Elizabeth Street, with a factory at the rear of the premises, and at 81 Brisbane Street. His products were sold beyond Launceston and shipped to the mainland. Mr Bender was the first person to establish an ice works in Launceston and special features of his business were the ice manufactory, freezing works and cool store for goods he made on the premises. Space in the cool store for perishable products was also available to the public.

The firm of Leonard Bender & Co. was registered in August 1911. In October 1911 Mr Bender entered into partnership with Albert Edward Webb, an accountant, who married Mr Bender's daughter. Bender & Co. was incorporated in 1923.

Born in the Huon, Leonard Bender had a keen interest in fruit growing and established an orchard on 30 acres at West Arm (in the vicinity of York Town) in the Tamar Valley, where he planted a number of apple varieties c1910. Before his death he controlled over 300 acres of fruit bearing trees, mainly on the West Tamar. Bender & Co. was one of the first to undertake direct overseas shipments of fruit from the Tamar in 1922, built the first fruit cool store in northern Tasmania and became one of the leading shipping agents in the north of the State. Bender & Co. Pty Ltd operated its apple and pear export business until 1974.

After the death of Leonard Bender in 1934 and Albert Webb in 1937, Leonard and George Webb, grandchildren of the firm's founder, maintained the family involvement in Bender & Co. Pty Ltd. The firm continued in the meat and small goods business until 1972 when it amalgamated with Blue Ribbon Meats, and as a subsidiary company, traded under the name of Bender Smallgoods. Members of the Webb family sold nos. 98 and 98a Elizabeth Street to the Launceston City Council in 1981. Webb Investments sold the plant and equipment at 98a Elizabeth and 119 York streets to Blue Ribbon Meat Products Pty Ltd in 1982.

Leonard Bender's name is remembered in Launceston by Bender's Lane.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in May 1995 with additional items donated in September 2001.

1. Legal Records

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|-----|---|-----------------|
| 1/1 | Bender & Co. Pty Ltd (15 title deeds and conveyances re land owned by the firm in Elizabeth and York streets; lease agreement, 1939) | 1877-1905, 1939 |
| 1/2 | Mr Leonard Bender and Mr A E Webb, agreement as to partnership | 1911 |
| 1/3 | G C Druce to Bender & Co. Pty Ltd., agreement for lease (of land at Swan Point) | 1928 |
| 1/4 | L Bender indenture re mortgage of properties in Launceston | 1926, 1935 |
| 1/5 | L G Webb, H A Webb, N E Webb and M L Webb, agreement for sale of 98 and 98a Elizabeth Street to Launceston City Council (with associated correspondence 16 March 1977-28 June 1983) | 1977-1983 |

2. Minutes of Meetings

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|-----|---|-----------|
| 2/1 | Bender & Co. Proprietary Limited, minutes of meetings 23 February 1923-27 August 1951 (includes share register) | 1923-1951 |
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3. Correspondence

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| 3/1 | Letter to Bender & Co. from W H Cox & Sons, builders, re premises at 98, 98a, 100 Elizabeth Street, 119 York Street | 1946 |
| 3/2 | Correspondence between Webb Investments and Blue Ribbon Meat Products Pty Ltd | 1982 |
| 3/3 | Correspondence between L G Webb and Clarke & Gee re history of 119 York Street | 1983 |
| 3/4 | Letter to L G Webb from Australian Taxation Office (includes agreement for sale of shares between L G Webb and others and Searchmont Pty Ltd and Bender & Co.) | 1984 |

4. Financial Records

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|-----|--|------------------------|
| 4/1 | Bender & Co., balance sheet for year ended 30 June 1917; for year to 31 October 1923, 1975; 30 June 1977 | 1917, 1923, 1975, 1977 |
| 4/2 | Webb Investments, balance sheets for year ended 30 June 1978-30 June 1985 | 1978-1985 |
| 4/3 | Bender & Co., miscellaneous accounts rendered by | 1919, 1926, |

	Bender & Co.	1931, 1935
4/4	[Bender & Co], handwritten price list for smallgoods	1948
4/5	L Bender, Commercial Bank of Tasmania cheque book (contains cheque butts and a number of unused cheques)	1917-1919

5. *Business Records*

5/1	<i>L. Bender, 110 Elizabeth St. & 81 Brisbane St. Launceston</i> , Launceston, 1906 (booklet, reprinted from <i>The Daily Telegraph</i> , April 1906)	1906
5/2	Leonard Bender & Co., certificate of registration for firm carrying on business at 100 Elizabeth Street and 103 Brisbane Street, Launceston	1911
5/3	Bender & Co., two unused ice coupon books (no. 001, 960 lbs; no. 178, 1,440 lbs)	191?
5/4	Durham Meat Co., certificate of registration for firm carrying on business at 201 Charles Street; Tamar Marketing Association, certificate of registration for firm carrying on business at Elizabeth Street (pasted on front and back of a sheet of cardboard)	1917, 1929
5/5	Accounts for sales of apples shipped through Hobart, prior to shipments commencing from Beauty Point in 1922	1919, 1920
5/6	'The first direct shipment of apples from Beauty Point to England' (typescript of extract from <i>Examiner</i> 6 March 1922)	1922
5/7	Mr L Bender, fruit shipments to England allotment notice issued by Eric E Burgess, Hobart; withdrawal notices from Bender & Co. cool stores; storage voucher for Bender & Co. cool stores	1923, 1936
5/8	Leonard Bender's price list	nd
5/9	Bender & Co. Pty Ltd (price list for small goods)	1929
5/10	Messrs. Bender and Company Proprietary Limited, Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Tasmania Limited policies for cases of apples shipped to UK	1932
5/11	'They have arrived' (<i>Mercury</i> advertisement re Bender's smallgoods obtainable from Meadow Provisions, Hobart)	1932
5/12	Bender & Co. letter to F G Bruford, Glengarry, re	1935

88 cases of fruit sent to Sydney

5/13	'Departmental Heads, General Dept.' (typed list, includes duties, signed L F Webb)	1935
5/14	R L Evans, 'The history of the apple: Eve to Captain Bligh' (typescript)	nd
5/15	W J Wright, 'Progressive history of the pome fruit industry in Tasmania' (typescript)	c1964
5/16	Bender & Co. Pty Ltd, correspondence from Henri Cordier, France, re consignments of fruit	1964
5/17	Bender's Delicatessen, certificate of registration of business name	1966
5/18	1969 fruit shipments: growers and importers (recorded by hand in exercise book)	1969
5/19	'Things have changed', <i>Examiner</i> ? 1 April 1971 re cartons of fruit and fork lifts at Inspection Head	1971
5/20	Bender & Co. Pty Ltd, fruit export stationary (notice of submission of fresh fruit for examination; vessel, shipping no. and destination; specification of boxes of fancy grade pears; celltype cartons fancy grade apples; invoice stationary; art work for label?)	nd
5/21	Bender & Co., various forms concerning the export of fruit (includes bank orders)	1935-1971
5/22	L Bender, advice notices for West Arm packing shed, Deviot packing shed, Richmond Hill packing shed; Rutlyn Orchards Legana packing shed	1935
5/23	Bender & Co., cool storage list for varieties of apples and pears	nd
5/24	Bender & Co. Pty Ltd, 'B Selected Tasmanian Apples' (apple label)	nd
5/25	<i>Australian shipping numbers</i> , London, 1961	1961
5/26	'Oldest L'ton meat firm taken over', <i>Examiner</i> ? 9 September 1972	1972
5/27	Bender & Co. Pty Ltd, notice that from 11 September 1972 Bender Smallgoods Pty Ltd will be operating independently from Bender & Co. Pty Ltd (the street number was changed from 100 to 98 Elizabeth	1972

Street)

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|------|--|------------------|
| 5/28 | Bender & Co. Pty Ltd letter, 20 February 1974, addressed to 'Dear Sir', advising that the company is no longer engaged in exporting apples and pears | 1974 |
| 5/29 | Bender & Co. Pty Ltd (stationary, envelopes, with compliments slips, ham labels, leg ham product wrapper, Bender's Sausages label) | nd |
| 5/30 | Webb Investments, Business Names Act 1962, notice that place of business was changed from Ilfracombe to 3 Emma Street, Launceston | 1983 |
| 5/31 | Bender & Co. Pty Ltd (stationery, various forms, invoice book, ice coupon book, 1911-1930) | 1911-1930,
nd |
| 5/32 | Bender & Co. Pty Ltd (apple case labels, 'B, Selected Tasmanian Apples') | nd |
| 5/33 | Bender & Co Pty Ltd (pear case labels, 'B, Selected Tasmanian Pears') | nd |

6. Property Records

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|-----|---|-----------|
| 6/1 | Plans of West Tamar properties owned by L Bender , later by L & G Webb (includes Devon 1A land grant map 1922; Ilfracombe; land at York Town and Deviot; subdivision "Lempriere" Estate, early 1930s (2 copies); Benders Est. survey by J Cohen, 1950, 1952; land in parish of Philips Norton, survey by J Cohen, 1957, 1966) | |
| 6/2 | Webb family property at Anderson's Creek (correspondence, plans etc) | 1967-1985 |

7. Photographs

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|-----|---|------|
| 7/1 | 'First direct fruit shipment from Tamar Valley. The S S Telemon at Beauty Point, March 6, 1922' (2 photographs, one includes ship, the other of apple cases inside a shed) | 1922 |
| 7/2 | Leonard Bender, Frederick Webb, E S Floyd, N Brooker, W S Smith? with some of the first pine apple cases shipped from Beauty Point. Imported from Canada by Bender & Co. Pty Ltd 1928 | 1928 |
| 7/3 | 'Company apples being loaded for overseas, Inspection Head, 1966. Almost the last of the wooden boxes shipped by us' (2 copies) | 1966 |

8. Miscellaneous Items

8/1	<i>1924 calendar and diary with compliments from Bender & Co. Pty Ltd. manufacturers, general merchants, shipping agents, fruit exporters, Launceston</i>	1924
8/2	Bank of Australasia, letter of indication for Leonard Bender	1929
8/3	Bender & Co. Pty Ltd, 'B' brand rubber stamp; Bender's Delicatessen, 100 Elizabeth Street Launceston Telephone 31 3788 rubber stamp	nd
8/4	A.B.C. Delicatessen, 137 Charles Street Launceston (price list)	nd

OTHER SOURCES

QVMAG, Community History, 1999.P.1564

QVMAG, Community History, 2001.P.0197

Leonard Bender's obituary in *Examiner*, 17 December 1934, p. 8 (includes photograph)

Cyclopedia of Tasmania, Hobart, 1900, vol.2, article on Leonard Bender (includes photograph)

Cyclopedia of Tasmania, Hobart, 1931, article on Bender & Co. Pty Ltd

Anne McConnell and Nathalie Servant, *The history and heritage of the Tasmanian apple industry: a profile*, Launceston, 1999

Miranda Morris- Nunn and C B Tassell, *Launceston's industrial heritage: a survey*, Launceston, 1982