

**QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY**

**CHS 44**

**LAUNCESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COLLECTION**

**Chambers of Commerce, Launceston**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Launceston Chamber of Commerce was established in August 1849 and is the third oldest organisation of its type in Australia. Its objectives are:

- to promote trading, commercial, shipping and manufacturing interests in Tasmania
- to disseminate information about and protect general commercial interests
- to maintain a code of practice appropriate to business transactions relating to trade, commerce and industrial matters
- to cooperate with organisations with similar objectives

For many years, the organisation had a reputation for being run by the 'Brisbane Street barons'. It has taken a close interest in many major issues and projects, such as the impact of the 40-hour week, the development of the Missing Link (Great Lake highway), Launceston Airport and port facilities, Albert Hall Convention Centre, the Launceston Casino complex, and major changes in local government resulting from the 1985 amalgamation of the Lilydale, St Leonards and Launceston Councils.

By the early 1990s the Chamber of Commerce had 350 members, representing transport, architecture, banking, building societies, insurance, accountancy, engineering, manufacturing, retailers and wholesalers, wool brokers, auctioneers, real estate and hospitality interests. A detailed classified list of members regularly appears in the Chamber of Commerce's annual reports.

Past presidents include many well known names - H Du Croz, H Dowling, Hon W Hart MLC, S J Sutton MHA, J W Pepper, P O Fysh, Sir Claude James, A C Ferrall, Sir Gordon Rolph, John Gunn MBE and Sir R A Ferrall. In 1993, it elected its first woman, Joan Finlay, to the executive.

The Chamber of Commerce is a strong supporter of free enterprise and small business. It continues to represent commercial interests in the city, plays a role in the development of new industries and takes pride in its leadership in promoting Launceston as a gateway for regional tourism and other interests.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in August 1999 in connection with the Launceston Chamber of Commerce's sesquicentenary exhibition that year. Prior to this it was on loan to the Launceston Library (L MSS 073). To avoid confusion, the same arrangement and item numbering used by the Launceston Library has been retained. An additional item was donated in March 2002 (see record no. 31).

### *1. Minutes of Meetings*

1	Launceston Chamber of Commerce, minute book of meetings, 13 January 1869-9 September 1884	1869-1884
2	Minute book of meetings, 24 February 1886-8 May 1895 (includes newspaper cuttings)	1886-1895
3	Executive committee, minute book of meetings, 25 September 1884-5 August 1909 (includes mining committee minutes of meetings 6 April 1899-29 August 1901; parliamentary committee minutes of meetings 11 October-17 November 1904 and newspaper cuttings)	1884-1909
4	Minute book of meetings, 12 June 1895-14 December 1905 (includes newspaper cuttings)	1895-1905
5	Minute book of meetings, 11 January 1906-26 August 1915 (includes reports and newspaper cuttings)	1906-1915
6	Executive committee, minute book of meetings, 12 August 1909-9 February 1917 (includes newspaper cuttings)	1909-1917
7	Minute book of meetings, 28 October 1915-29 November 1937 (includes produce section minutes of meeting 13 October 1922 and newspaper cuttings)	1915-1937
8	Executive committee, minute book of meetings, 8 March 1917-19 June 1930 (includes industrial progress committee minutes of meetings 17 April 1918; shipping committee minutes of meetings 11-24 July 1919 and newspaper cuttings)	1917-1930
9	Executive committee, minute book of meetings, 7 July 1930-8 February 1937	1930-1937
10	Executive committee, minute book of meetings, 22 February 1937-17 January 1938	1937-1938
11	Launceston Chamber of Commerce scrapbook, 12 June 1924-26 November 1927 (with index)	1924-1927
12	Launceston Chamber of Commerce cash book, July 1906-June 1928	1906-1928
13	Cash book, July 1951-October 1965	1951-1965
14	Launceston Traders' Association, minute book of meetings, 10 April 1908-30 August 1922	1908-1922
15	Launceston Chamber of Commerce, minute book of meetings,	1921-1943

	8 November 1922-20 October 1943 (includes Launceston Traders' Association minutes of meetings 21 February 1921-18 September 1922)	
16	Executive committee, minutes of meetings, 7 February 1938-18 Jun 1940	1938-1940
17	Executive committee, minutes of meetings, 16 July 1940-23 July 1946	1940-1946
18	Executive committee, minutes of meetings, 19 August 1946-21 October 1952	1946-1952
19	Executive committee, minutes of meetings, 18 November 1952-17 June 1958	1952-1958
20	Launceston Chamber of Commerce, minutes of meetings, 15 July 1958-16 June 1964	1958-1964
21	Minutes of meetings, 20 July 1964-25 June 1968	1964-1968
22	Minutes of meetings, 16 July 1968-15 June 1971	1968-1971
23	Minutes of meetings, 20 July 1971-19 June 1973	1971-1973
24	Minutes of meetings, 17 July 1973-17 June 1975	1973-1975
25	<i>Rules and Constitution</i> 1896; annual reports 1882 and 1888; financial statements 1907-1929; Retail Traders Association <i>Memorandum ... and Articles of Association</i> 1976	1882-1976
26	Miscellaneous papers, March 1947-June 1951	1947-1951
27	Miscellaneous papers, July-December 1951 (includes minutes of meetings of Hobart, Devonport and Ulverstone Chambers of Commerce)	1951-1952
28	Miscellaneous papers, January-June 1952 (includes minutes of meetings of Hobart, Ulverstone and Burnie Chambers of Commerce and Launceston Traffic Advisory committee)	1952
29	Miscellaneous papers (includes personal directory; proclamation 125 <sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet 1974; weekend and holiday services poster c1980)	1974-c1980
30	Newsletter	1999
31	Scrapbook, being the archival record of the Chamber's involvement with the development of the initial concept for the re-use of the Launceston Railway Workshops, Inveresk <i>Oversize item</i>	1991-c2001

## OTHER SOURCES

QVMAG, Community History, CHS 73

Launceston Reference Library, Local History Collection, newspaper cuttings file 'Launceston Chamber of Commerce'

Launceston Chamber of Commerce, *Centenary ... 1848-1949*, Launceston, 1949