

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 9

LAUNCESTON WAR MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION COLLECTION

War Memorials, Launceston

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

The Launceston War Memorial Community Centre Association was formed during the closing years of the Second World War, the prime mover of the project being Norman Findlay. On 19 December 1944 members of the East Launceston Civil Defence Legion met under the chairmanship of sector warden Mr Findlay and they conceived the idea of 'a living war memorial dedicated to all those who served their country in World War 11'.

The neglected Windmill Hill site was accepted unanimously and after nearly a year of planning a public meeting was held on 19 September 1945 and a trust fund commenced. The grandiose scheme involved a memorial hall, an Olympic covered and heated swimming pool, a three floor community centre with restaurants, a child welfare section, caretaker's quarters and a lavish world-class theatre. (1)

The foundation stone of a building to be erected on the site was laid by Governor Sir Hugh Binney on 10 September 1946. Actual construction of the Memorial Hall commenced on 27 August 1953 and the building opened the following year. Subsequently problems arose with finance and nothing came of the elaborate plans for the remainder of the complex.

A Memorial Avenue of trees was dedicated in 1962, and funds were contributed to a Council-built swimming pool and mothercraft facilities at the Queen Victoria Hospital.

By 1980 the Hall was still not completely finished: its roof was of temporary corrugated asbestos and the shabby, dated building was in need of wiring, plumbing, painting and heating. (2) Three years later the Mayor was urging that more use be made of the Hall (3) and the following year the Association was fighting to raise money to repair and upgrade the building. (4) The Association was still in existence in 1989, but not long after this date the Launceston City Council seems to have become responsible for the Hall.

The collection was transferred to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery about 1990.

References:

1. *Examiner* 2 August 1980, p. 8
2. *Examiner* 2 August 1980, p. 8
3. *Examiner* 5 August 1983, p. 10
4. *Examiner* 16 August 1984, p. 22

1. Minutes of Meetings

1/1	Minutes of meetings (includes notices of meetings)	1954-1965
1/2	Minutes of meetings (includes notices of meetings)	1966-1970, 1976

2. Legal Records

(For correspondence relating to land title see item 4/1)

2/1	Legal records (includes constitution and rules, licences, terms and conditions for hiring the War Memorial Hall)	1954-1976
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3. Financial records

3/1	Financial records (includes appeal for funds circular, balance sheets, working schedules)	1953-1969
3/2	Bank passbooks, cheque book and receipt book (unused)	1945-1965
3/3	ES&A Bank statements	1957-1969

4. Correspondence

4/1	Shields Heritage Stackhouse & Martin, solicitors (includes land title survey plan)	1953-1972
4/2	Hall hiring, Memorial Avenue, lighting, sales tax, 7LA Women's Association etc	1961-1962
4/3	Hall hiring, foundation stone, Memorial Avenue, telephone service, mothercraft, public entertainment regulations etc)	1963
4/4	Hall hiring, public entertainment regulations, regulations, telephone service, Council representation,	1964

	damage claim, YMCA etc	
4/5	Telephone service, Council representation, hall overcrowding, R Fowell, damage claim, Governor's reception etc	1965
4/6	Council representation, income tax, 21 st anniversary, indoor bowls etc	1966
4/7	Children's Day, hall hiring, Governor's patronage etc	1967-1969
4/8	Plaque unveiling, hall hiring, exterior painting, Council representation	1970-1977
4/9	Mothercraft Home Committee	1956-1965

5. Miscellaneous Records

5/1	Organisational chart; <i>An invitation for membership, a grand conception</i> (pamphlet); <i>Living War Memorials</i> (illustrated brochure); building extensions (architectural drawings); Memorial Avenue opening (program); membership lists; balloon race working notes etc	1945-1964
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OTHER SOURCES

QVMAG, Community History, 1994.OH.32 A-B

QVMAG, Community History, LCC 3, Correspondence Files (class 43/1 files for the period 1943-1947); LCC 5, Newspaper cutting scrapbooks (item 103, 1945-1955)

QVMAG, Community History, Secondary file, 'Launceston - Memorials'

Launceston Community Centre Association, *A grand conception: a call to all citizens of Launceston*, Launceston, c1947