

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 93

ROTARY CLUB OF LAUNCESTON COLLECTION

Service Clubs, Launceston
Rotary Clubs, Launceston

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INTRODUCTION

The Rotary Club of Launceston, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Melbourne, was the first in Tasmania. The inaugural meeting was held on 18 February 1924 at the Brisbane Hotel and the first luncheon took place at the hotel on 27 February. The Club was chartered with a membership of 25 and by the end of the year membership stood at 34. Dr John (later Sir John) Ramsay was the Charter President: in 1926/27 he served a second term as president, the only person to serve twice.

Rotary, founded by Paul Harris in Chicago in 1905, bases its operations around the credo of 'Service Above Self'. Its four avenues of service are directed towards club, community, vocational and international programs. The movement, with vocation the basis of membership, spread to Australia in 1921 when clubs were established in Melbourne and Sydney.

A booklet published by the Rotary Club of Launceston as part of its 75th anniversary celebrations in 1999 recorded some of the Club's notable achievements. The following activities highlighted in the booklet are in chronological order:

Relief work undertaken by the Club in the aftermath of the disastrous 1929 flood

Erection of a hut on Scout Island, Corra Lynn

Paul Harris's visit to Launceston in 1935 when he planted a tree of remembrance in Royal Park

Windmill Hill Community Centre project

Barbecue at Bonnie Beach and at Rotary Park, Hillwood

1960s project, St Paul's Church, Ainslie House

Preservation work carried out on 'Miss Flinders', historic Bass Strait aircraft

Rhododendron Gardens, Punch Bowl Centre

Clennett Memorial entrance at Gorge Reserve erected

Initiated restoration of water-powered Brindley organ in Albert Hall

Barbecues, shelters and outdoor furniture provided in the grounds of National Trust property Clarendon

Wheel of *Defender*, Tasmania's entry in the Australian Bi-centenary Tall Ships race, carved and fitted

Playground equipment provided for Invermay Primary School

Ravenswood Community Centre painted and refurbished

Purchased antique furniture items for National Trust property Franklin House

Gazebo at Masonic Memorial Peace Haven constructed

Train engine for children's playground at Perth

Assisted with restoration of suspension bridge, haulage motor shed and power station museum at Duck Reach

A long-standing project, the 'Bring out a Briton' scheme, instituted in 1958-59, had assisted 144 people to settle in Tasmania by 1974. The Club ran a 'Garden Spectacular' at Youngtown in 1986, the precursor to the popular annual garden festivals. In 1987 a successful air pageant was organised at Launceston Airport.

Included in the Club's record of service are the working parties of members which undertook international service projects in Western Samoa in 1996 and 2000. The Club has been a strong supporter of the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

External extension commenced in 1928 when the Rotary Club of Devonport was sponsored, the first of a number of clubs to be sponsored. In 1982 the Club initiated the formation of the Probus Club of Launceston.

Over the years several members have been knighted for their service to the country: Sir John Ramsay, Sir Claude James, Sir Gordon Rolph, Sir Raymond Ferrall and Sir Geoffrey Foot. Many more have been recipients of Imperial and Australian honours. A W Monds, Frank Warland Browne, Frank F Boatwright, Clarry Pryor, Dick Green, David Gunn, Sinclair Thyne, Max Cleaver, Reg Walker and Graeme Beams have served as mayors of Launceston, whilst others have been elected as aldermen. Women were first admitted to the Club in 1995.

By 2000 the Club had named 40 Paul Harris Fellows, amongst the earliest being John Grove, Alan Abbott and Bev Lawrence.

The Club has been involved in a wide and impressive range of community programs and activities through its strong support for numerous local charities and organisations and also at an international level.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in August 2005.

1. Legal Records

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|-----|---|------------|
| 1/1 | <i>By Laws of the Rotary Club of Launceston, Launceston, 1953</i> | 1953 |
| 1/2 | <i>Constitution and by-laws of the Rotary Club of Launceston, revised 1964, Launceston, 1964</i> | 1964 |
| 1/3 | <i>Constitution and by-laws of the Rotary Club of Launceston, revised 1979, Launceston, 1979</i> | 1979 |
| 1/4 | ‘Constitution of the Rotary Club of Launceston Incorporated. Explanation Sheet’, with typed copy of Constitution attached | nd |
| 1/5 | Rotary International, correspondence re Rotary Club of Launceston territorial limits | 1960, 1962 |

2. Minutes of Meetings

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|------|--|-----------------|
| 2/1 | Rotary Club of Launceston, minutes of Directors meetings, 13 November 1940-1 November 1944 | 1940-1944 |
| 2/2 | Minutes of Directors meetings, 2 May 1945, 4 October 1950-24 June 1957 | 1945, 1950-1957 |
| 2/3 | Minutes of Directors meetings, 17 July 1957-17 June 1959 | 1957-1959 |
| 2/4 | Minutes of Directors meetings, 15 July 1959-17 June 1964 | 1959-1964 |
| 2/5 | Minutes of Directors meetings, 19 May 1982-18 May 1983, 6 May 1987 | 1982-1983, 1987 |
| 2/6 | Minutes of Directors meetings, 17 April 1991-23 June 1994, 7 June 1995 | 1991-1995 |
| 2/7 | Minute book of Board meetings, 12 June 1996-11 June 1997 | 1996-1997 |
| 2/8 | Minutes of Board meetings, 9 July 1997-10 June 1998 | 1997-1998 |
| 2/9 | Minute book of Board meetings, 8 July 1998-23 September 1998 | 1998 |
| 2/10 | Minutes of Board meetings, 14 October 1998-20 May 1999, financial statement 30 June 1999 | 1998-1999 |

3. Correspondence

3/1	Rotary Club of Launceston, correspondence	1950
3/2	Correspondence	1951
3/3	Correspondence	1957-1959
3/4	Correspondence	1960
3/5	Correspondence	1961-1962
3/6	Correspondence	1963-1964
3/7	Correspondence, two letters only for 1965	1965-1968
3/8	Correspondence	1969-1970, 1973
3/9	Correspondence (includes 3/11, 5/12/1983)	1986-1989
3/10	Correspondence, one letter only for 2000	1991-1993, 2000
3/11	Correspondence etc re Civil & Military Aviation Spectacular, Launceston Airport, November 1986-10 February 1987	1986-1987
3/12	Correspondence re Civil & Military Aviation Spectacular, Launceston Airport, 11 February-May 1987	1987
3/13	Correspondence, applications etc re Sir John Ramsay Pursuit of Excellence awards	1992-1993

4. Annual Reports

4/1	Rotary Club of Launceston, annual reports, 1956, 1957-1958, 1958-59, 1959-60, 1960-61, 1961-1962, 1967-1968, 1986, 1987, 1989-1990, 1993-1994, 1994-1995, 1995-96, 1997-1998, 1998-1999, 2000-2001, 2002	1956-2002
4/2	Rotary Club of Launceston, committee reports, 1949, 1957-58, 1958-59, 1959-60, 1961, 1962	1949-1962

5. Club Membership Records

5/1	Rotary Club of Launceston, membership and classification book, arranged by year <i>Oversize item</i>	1924-1989
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5/2	Membership and classification book, arranged alphabetically <i>Over size item</i>	1924-1989
5/3	Membership and classification record sheets book <i>Over size item</i>	1980-1990
5/4	Record of membership proposals book <i>Over size item</i>	1932-1991
5/5	Attendance book <i>Over size item</i>	1942-1954
5/6	Attendance book <i>Over size item</i>	1954-1989
5/7	Lists of members, some years missing	1950-1998
5/8	Attendance lists	1982-1989

6. Weekly Bulletins

6/1	Rotary Club of Launceston, [Weekly Bulletins], 21 January 1948-6 December 1950	1948-1950
6/2	[Weekly Bulletins], 24 January 1951-10 June 1953	1951-1953
6/3	Weekly Bulletins, 2 March 1955-19 December 1956	1955-1956
6/4	Weekly Bulletins, 16 January 1957-2 December 1959	1957-1959
6/5	Weekly Bulletins, 13 January 1960-18 December 1963	1960-1963
6/6	Weekly Bulletins, 8 January 1964-28 December 1966	1964-1966
6/7	Weekly Bulletin, 4 January 1967-18 December 1968	1967-1968
6/8	Weekly Bulletins, 8 January 1969-30 December 1970	1969-1970
6/9	Weekly Bulletins, 6 January 1971-27 December 1972	1971-1972
6/10	Weekly Bulletins, 3 January 1973-18 December 1974	1973-1974
6/11	Weekly Bulletins, 8 January 1975-22 December 1976	1975-1976
6/12	Weekly Bulletins, 12 January 1977-20 December 1978	1977-1978
6/13	Weekly Bulletins, 3 January 1979-17 December 1980	1979-1980
6/14	Weekly Bulletins, 7 January 1981-22 December 1982	1981-1982
6/15	Weekly Bulletins, 5 January 1983-21 December 1983	1983

6/16	Weekly Bulletins, 4 January 1984-27 December 1985	1984-1985
6/17	Weekly Bulletins, 8 January 1986-23 December 1987	1986-1987
6/18	Weekly Bulletins, 6 January 1988-28 June 1898, 11 April 1990, 7 November 1990	1988-1990
6/19	Weekly Bulletins, 26 June 1991-23 December 1992	1991-1992
6/20	Weekly Bulletins, 6 January 1993-21 December 1994	1993-1994
6/21	Weekly Bulletins, 4 January 1995-14 August 1996, 28 May, 11 June, 18 June, 25 June 1997	1995-1997
6/22	Weekly Bulletins, 28/7/1998, 27/1/, 17/2/, 3/3/, 10/3, 24/3/, 7/7/, 14/7, 21/7, 11/8, 18/8, 25/8, 29/9, 20/10, 17/11/, 15/12/1999, 12/1, 22/3, 29/3, 12/4, 19/4, 26/4, 3/5, 7/6, 5/7, 26/7, 4/10, 11/10, 18/10, 25/10, 1/11, 8/11, 22/11, 29/11, 6/12, 13/12, 20/12/2000, 3/1/2001-19/12/2001	1998-2001
6/23	Weekly Bulletins, 9 January 2002-20 August 2003, 7 April-13 October 2004 (lacking some issues)	2002-2004

7. Projects

7/1	Rotary Club of Launceston, development of West Tamar River flats, correspondence; plan of area is an <i>Oversize item</i>	1961-1962
7/2	Restoration of Suspension Bridge to Duck Reach Power Station, correspondence etc	1992
7/3	Launceston Garden Festival, notes on history etc	1992-1993, nd
7/4	<i>Mitre 10'll fix it projects report</i> , Abbeyfield garden project, Peace Haven gazebo project	1998
7/5	<i>Rotary new generation project: submission for funding by Youth Suicide Action Group</i>	c1999
7/6	Rotary Club of Launceston, 75 th anniversary international service project, Moata'a Primary school, Western Samoa	2000
7/7	Physical projects report, Tyler House gazebo, Ravenswood Community Centre painting project	2001-2001

8. Miscellaneous Records

8/1	<i>Record of the Rotary Club of Launceston from February,</i>	1924-1996
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	1924, information on club activities, in binder with title embossed in gold lettering on cover	
8/2	Rotary Club of Launceston, biographical information on club presidents	1924-2002
8/3	Miscellaneous items relating to club history	1924-1996
8/4	<i>Proceedings of the first official Australian Rotary Conference held at Melbourne, March 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 1926; The Pinion, vol. 1, no. 1: Report of the first conference sixty-fifth district Rotary International, Australia. Tasmania, March, 1928</i>	1926, 1928
8/5	Rotary Club of Launceston, <i>Classification roster, October, 1944</i>	1944
8/6	Rotary International, <i>20th conference of the 28th District R. I. Launceston, Tasmania, May 3rd to May 7th, 1952, programme; report of proceedings</i>	1952
8/7	Rotary Clubs of Tasmania, <i>Conference, Hobart 1st & 2nd May, 1954, programme; Intra-city conference, Launceston, April 30th and May 1st, 1955, programme</i>	1954, 1955
8/8	Rotary Club of Launceston, <i>Golden anniversary dinner and Paul Harris oration, menu; souvenir programme</i>	1955
8/9	Rotary Club of Launceston, Bring out a Briton committee, reports etc. (See also 8/35)	1961-1970
8/10	<i>District 282, fourth annual conference, Launceston 5-7 April, 1962, programme</i>	1962
8/11	<i>District 282, Rotary International seventh annual conference Hobart, Tasmania, 12th-16th March, 1964, programme; District 282, 8th annual conference, Launceston, March 10th-13, 1966, programme; menu; paper serviette</i>	1965, 1966
8/12	Rotary Club of Launceston, incoming presidential address, 5 July 1967 by Ron Ward; also poem 'How we built the barbeques', by Ron Ward	1967
8/13	Rotary International District 282, <i>Twelfth annual conference, Launceston, Tasmania, March 7, 8, 9, 1970, programme; menu</i>	1970
8/14	Rotary International, District 282, <i>Investiture of District Governor and president & officers of the Rotary Club of Launceston, Wednesday, 30th June, 1971, programme</i>	1971

8/15	Rotary Club of Launceston, minutes (incomplete) of Rotary Information Committee; notes and general information concerning Rotary International	1971-2000
8/16	Rotary Club of Launceston West, presentation of charter (Rotary Club of Launceston the sponsoring club)	1972
8/17	Rotary International District 283, <i>First annual conference, Launceston, Tasmania, March 29, 30, 31, 1973</i> , programme; report; menu	1973
8/18	Rotary Club of Launceston, album compiled by and correspondence from Rotary Youth Exchange student Peter Nicholas	1979-1980
8/19	<i>Directory of Rotary Clubs Oct. 1980 in Australia, Papua, New Guinea and New Zealand</i> , Port Pirie, 1980	1980
8/20	Rotary International, District 983, Tasmania, <i>Directory 1983-84; 1985-86; 1994-95</i>	1983, 1985
8/21	Rotary International?, typed conference program, Launceston	1983
8/22	Rotary Club of Launceston, internal memo re attendance	1983
8/23	Invitation to presentation of charter to Rotary Club of Launceston City	1983
8/24	<i>60th anniversary, Burwood, Wednesday, 22nd February, 1984</i> (contains short history of the Club)	1984
8/25	Rotary International District 983, <i>Twelfth annual conference, Launceston, Tasmania, March 23, 24, 25, 1984</i> , programme	1984
8/26	Rotary Club of Launceston, lists of unfilled classifications	1985-1988
8/27	Ray Tilley, 'The little summer dog'; speech re air pageant; notes on Rotarians in first photograph of Club members; speech re 70 th anniversary of Club	1986-1994
8/28	Rotary Club of Launceston, <i>Launceston air pageant, civil and military air spectacular, souvenir programme, Sunday May 3, Launceston Airport, Western Junction</i> (See also 8/36)	1987
8/29	Rotary Club of Launceston, 'Report of retirement planning seminar committee', typescript	1989
8/30	Chris Moore, <i>1994 Tasmanian award for horticultural excellence: Tasmanian extension report</i> (the award was	1995

developed by the Rotary Club of Launceston)

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| 8/31 | Rotary District Conference, District 9830, <i>The Rotary Club of Launceston Incorporated welcomes Rotarians & guests</i> , delegates folder | 1997 |
| 8/32 | Rotary Club of Launceston, <i>Newsletter</i> , no.1, no.2 | 1997-1998 |
| 8/33 | Rotary Club of Launceston Inc, <i>75th anniversary 5 August 1999</i> | 1999 |
| 8/34 | Rotary Club of Launceston, Paul Harris Fellowship awards, list; individual recipients | nd, to 2002 |
| 8/35 | Newspaper cuttings <i>Oversize item</i> | 1962-2002,
nd |
| 8/36 | Newspaper cuttings and poster re Launceston Air Pageant <i>Oversize item</i> | 1987 |
| 8/37 | Certificates for service <i>Oversize item</i> | 1995-2002 |
| 8/38 | Paul Harris, print taken from a photograph and inscribed 'To my friend Charlie Monds who does all things well, whether carving a turkey or doing other kindly things in the service of his friends. Sincerely Paul Harris Mar 28-35'; print of 'Paul P. Harris, Founder of Rotary International. From a painting by Rotarian E.M.R. Weiner, Beloit, Winsconsin, U.S.A.', inscribed 'Presented by Rotarian W. Walker' | nd |

9. Photographs, Recording Tape and Video

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| 9/1 | 'First Australasian Rotary Conference Sydney Sept. 23, 24, 25, 1924', photograph album | 1924 |
| 9/2 | 'Early members of Rotary Club of Launceston taken about a month after first meeting'; 'Launceston first Rotary Club 1924', two different group photographs | 1924 |
| 9/3 | 'First Rotary Conference of 65 th held in Tasmania', group photograph outside Town Hall, Hobart | 1928 |
| 9/4 | Photographs of early presidents: John Ramsay; Lewis Parker; Claude James; Andrew Raeburn; Len Cuff; Frank Warland Browne; Gordon Rolph | nd |
| 9/5 | Photograph album of Club members (album damaged by fire) | 1964-1970 |

9/6	Photographs of Club activities; Club meetings	1986-2002
9/7	Gilbert McKinlay and District Governor Alan Leth; Ron Ward and District Governor Alan Leth	nd
9/8	Neil Otway, John Dent, Graham Sorell, John Bushby and Phillip Tilley	1995
9/9	Rotary Club of Launceston, President Colleen McGann, 1 st July 2000 to 30 th June 2001, photograph albums 1 & 2 <i>Oversize items</i>	2000-2001
9/10	'Rotary Play, R E Ward, speed 7.5 ips', written on front of Ampex Professional Recording Tape box	nd
9/11	Rotary Club of Launceston, video of Launceston Garden Festival	1995

10.Ephemera

10/1	Rotary Club of Launceston, <i>Annual dinner and installation of president</i> , menu	1947
10/2	Rotary International, <i>Dinner...Joseph A Abey...Launceston July 22, 1961</i> , menu; typed program	1961
10/3	Rotary International, <i>Divine service, Sunday, 23 July, 1961, St John's Church of England, Launceston</i>	1961
10/4	Rotary Club of Launceston, <i>Charter night, Launceston Rotaract Club, 17th March, 1971</i> , programme	1971
10/5	15 th anniversary celebration and luncheon at Silks Restaurant, menu	1997
10/6	<i>75 years of Rotary Service</i> , menu	[1999]
10/7	Rotary Club of Launceston, <i>Launceston, its resources and development, with the compliments of the Rotary Club of Launceston, hoping to hear from you</i> , promotional brochure	nd
10/8	Rotary Club of Launceston, art exhibition and auction, catalogue	nd
10/9	Letterhead; guest badge; 'With compliments' card	nd

11.Books

11/1	<i>Report of proceedings at the Australian Rotary Conference</i>	1937
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1937, being the 10th annual conference of the 65th District of Rotary International, held at Hobart, Tasmania, Hobart, 1937

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| 11/2 | Rotary International, <i>Rotary: fifty years of service, 1905-1955</i> , Illinois, USA, 1954 | 1954 |
| 11/3 | G V Brooks, <i>30 years of Rotary in Hobart</i> , Hobart, 1955 | 1955 |
| 11/4 | <i>Rotary District 282 historical data, 1957-1967</i> , [1967] | 1967 |
| 11/5 | Harold Hunt, <i>The story of Rotary in Australia, 1921-1971</i> , Melbourne?, 1971 | 1971 |
| 11/6 | Phil Jackson, <i>North Launceston Rotary Club: the first twenty five years, 1962-1987</i> , Launceston, 1987 | 1987 |
| 11/7 | John G Thorne, <i>Rotary Club of North Hobart: 30 years of service and fellowship</i> , Hobart, 1992 | 1992 |
| 11/8 | Paul Henningham, <i>Seventy five years of service: Rotary in Australia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, 1921-1996</i> , NSW?, 1996 | 1996 |
| 11/9 | Alan Leighton, <i>History of the Probus Club of Launceston Tasmania</i> , [Launceston, 1997] | 1997 |
| 11/10 | John G Thorne ed, <i>75 years of Rotary in Tasmania, 1924-1999</i> , Hobart, 1999 | 1999 |
| 11/11 | Song books: <i>Rotary song book</i> ; <i>A Rotary song book</i> ; <i>Songs for the Rotary Club</i> (two versions); <i>Rotary Club of Launceston</i> (two variant copies) | nd |

12. Banners

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| 12/1 | A representative sample of banners presented by overseas and Australian Rotary Clubs which were displayed at Club meetings <i>Oversize item</i> |
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