

QUEEN VICTORIA MUESUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 95

ARTS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA, TASMANIAN DIVISION, LAUNCESTON BRANCH COLLECTION

Cultural Events and Activities, Launceston

INTRODUCTION

THE RECORDS

- 1. Legal Records*
- 2. Minutes of Meetings*
- 3. Correspondence*
- 4. Annual Reports*
- 5. Newsletters*
- 6. Photographs*
- 7. Cassette*
- 8. Ephemera*

INTRODUCTION

The Launceston Branch of the Arts Council of Australia, Tasmanian Division, was inaugurated on 4 March 1975, following the final annual meeting of the Northern Division of the National Theatre and Fine Arts Society (NATFAS). An executive committee was elected identical in membership to that of NATFAS.

Initially there was a decline in membership due to a divergence of interest between members of the Arts Council of Tasmania and those of the former Northern Division of NATFAS. An association was established with the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in order to revive the Branch's activities in the field of fine arts: in 1977 a room for Arts Council members was made available at the Museum and members received invitations to QVMAG exhibition openings. A representative from the Northern Regional Library was on the Branch's committee, the liaison between the Branch and Library proving mutually beneficial. Cooperation with the Royal Society of Tasmania's Northern Branch was initiated in 1979 and in 1983 a close association was established with the Launceston Film Society.

Branch newsletters, commencing in 1976, record the many and varied activities undertaken by the Branch, which also supported Tasmanian Division activities and projects in schools in Launceston and surrounding areas. Newsletters were headed 'Arts Council of Australia, Tasmanian Division, Launceston Branch' until the end of 1986, after which time they were called 'Arts Council Newsletter, Launceston Branch'. There are no newsletters for 1993 and the last one in the collection, for Spring 1994, is headed 'Launceston Arts Council Newsletter'.

In 1980 the branch was the largest numerically in the state. Members offered hospitality to visiting artists and supplied interval refreshments at the Princess Theatre for major and local productions and interstate tours. From 1981 to 1983 the Saturday Club provided regular activity for young people.

The 1989 annual report recorded one of the most successful events conducted by the Branch – 'Launceston in words and music', consisting of readings from local history sources interspersed with music written by local composers nearly 100 years previously. The highlight of 1990 was the Max Oldaker exhibition held at the Northern Regional Library. The last item in the collection is a cassette recording produced by the Launceston Arts Council of a concert to celebrate the life and music of Alexander Frame Lithgow held in November 1994.

In 1999, following a change of name for the Tasmanian Arts Council, the Branch became known as Tasmanian Regional Arts, Launceston Branch.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in June 2006.

1. Legal Records

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|-----|---|-----------|
| 1/1 | 'Rules of Arts Council of Australia Tasmanian Division' (includes information on the Council) | 1984 |
| 1/2 | Arts Council of Australia (Tasmanian Division) Incorporated, 'By-laws for Branches and Regions' | 1989 |
| 1/3 | Arts Council of Australia, Tasmanian Division, Launceston Branch, contracts concerning pantomime 'Cinderella' | 1980 |
| 1/4 | Arts Council of Australia, Tasmanian Division, Launceston Branch, letters of agreement between Tasmanian Arts Council and Launceston Branch | 1983-1990 |

2. Minutes of Meetings

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| 2/1 | Arts Council of Australia, Tasmanian Division, Launceston Branch, minutes of committee meetings | 1975-1980 |
| 2/2 | Minutes of committee meetings | 1981-1983 |
| 2/3 | Minutes of committee meetings | 1984-1986 |
| 2/4 | Minutes of committee meetings | 1989-1993 |
| 2/5 | Minutes of first general meeting, 1975; minutes of annual meetings, 1976-1985, 1989-1991 | 1975-1991 |

3. Correspondence

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|-----|---|-----------|
| 3/1 | Arts Council of Australia, Tasmanian Division, Launceston Branch, correspondence | 1976-1979 |
| 3/2 | Correspondence | 1980-1983 |
| 3/3 | Correspondence | 1984-1986 |
| 3/4 | Correspondence (one letter only for 1987, no correspondence for 1988, one letter only for 1989) | 1987-1993 |
| 3/5 | Correspondence; newspaper cuttings; photographs re pantomime 'Cinderella' | 1979-1981 |
| 3/6 | Correspondence re Saturday Club | 1981-1983 |

4. Annual Reports

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| 4/1 | Arts Council of Australia, Tasmanian Division, Launceston Branch, annual reports, 1976-1986, 1989 | 1976-1989 |
| 4/2 | Arts Council of Australia, Tasmanian Division Inc., annual reports (from 1982 called Tasmanian Arts Council annual report) | 1977-1988 |

5. Newsletters

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|-----|---|-----------|
| 5/1 | Arts Council of Australia, Tasmanian Division, Launceston Branch, newsletters, 1976-1992, 1994; from 1997 called Arts Council Newsletter, Launceston Branch and for Spring 1994 called Launceston Arts Council Newsletter | 1976-1994 |
| 5/2 | Launceston Music Lovers' Cooperative, newsletter no.1, April 1985, no.2, November 1985 | 1985 |

6. Photographs

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| 6/1 | Arts Council of Australia, Tasmanian Division, Launceston Branch, photographs of National Arts Week activities at Ockerby Gardens and Northern Regional Library 1991; Jacqueline Horne receiving Tasmanian Arts Council life membership certificate, nd | 1991 |
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7. Cassette

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| 7/1 | Launceston Arts Council, cassette recording of 'Special concert to mark the centenary of the arrival in Launceston of Alexander Frame Lithgow 1870-1929', recorded at the Albert Hall 20 November 1994 | 1994 |
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8. Ephemera

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| 8/1 | Launceston Arts Council, certificate for contribution to Launceston Foundation Festival | 1986 |
| 8/2 | Arts Council of Australia, Tasmanian Division, Launceston Branch, subscription notices | 1978-1985 |
| 8/3 | Letterheads | nd |