

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

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NORTHERN CLUB COLLECTION

Businessmen, Launceston
Clubs and Associations, Launceston

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

The Northern Club was established 12 years after the Launceston Club as 'a club where business men could meet in congenial surroundings to relax, read the daily newspapers, ... have a quiet drink or meal ... [and] ... where important business contacts could be met in comfort and privacy'. Rejecting the title 'Commercial Club', the Northern Club fulfilled its purpose for 100 years.

The first meeting on 12 March 1894, at the former International Hotel in Brisbane Street, Launceston, was attended by 16 gentlemen. The first President was H Ritchie. In its first year the Club attracted 100 members. Membership had more than doubled by the early 1950s, reached 275 by the mid 1960s, but fell to 170 by September 1996. Members have represented various professions, politics, industry, commerce and sport, and included accountants, solicitors, graziers, stockbrokers, engineers, bank managers, clergymen, merchants, insurance agents, company managers and directors. Town members predominated, with a smaller number being country members. New members (elected by ballot) required 25 supporting votes from existing members. Honorary membership was occasionally extended by invitation to other persons (eg State Governors, Mayor of Launceston). The first life member was elected in 1932. In more recent years, membership was also opened to women, although none took it up. The Club's general business was managed by a committee (elected at the annual general meeting), three of whom also constituted the house committee. Special committees (eg that appointed to plan the Club's centenary) were appointed from time to time.

Clubs affiliated with the Northern Club included the NSW Sports Club (Sydney), Melbourne Savage Club, Stock Exchange Club (Melbourne), Tattersall's Club (Adelaide), Athanaeum Club and Civic Club (Hobart), and several North West Coast clubs. Many interstate and overseas visitors were also welcomed to the Club over the years. Inter-club competitions, particularly with the rival Launceston Club, became popular in the 1920s, and included cricket, bowls and golf.

The Northern Club celebrated its jubilee in 1944, and its centenary in March 1995. However, in a climate of changing social and business patterns, higher costs, and declining membership and revenue, the Club announced its closure in September 1996. The records included in this collection were passed to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery at that time. Other assets were to be sold, including the Club's premises at 61 Cameron Street. This property had initially been leased by the Club in 1898, and was purchased from the National Bank of Tasmania in October 1902. It has been extended and renovated at different times. Verandahs were added in 1905, the present street face and major internal renovations were completed in 1937 and 1969 respectively, and the dining room was redecorated in 1992.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in 1997, with additional items donated in 2004.

1. Legal Records

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|-----|---|-----------|
| 1/1 | <i>Rules and Regulations</i> , annotated, 1894; proposed amendments 1970 | 1894-1970 |
| 1/2 | Indenture of lease and agreement to purchase Cameron Street property from the National Bank of Tasmania | 1898-1902 |

2. Minutes of Meetings

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| 2/1 | Minutes of Meetings, minute book, includes minutes of general committee, house committee, annual general meetings | 1894-1897 |
| 2/2 | Minutes of Meetings, minute book, includes minutes of general committee and annual general meetings and notices, membership nominations | 1898-1916 |
| 2/3 | Minutes of Meetings, minute book, includes minutes of committee and annual general meetings and notices, balance sheet (1917 only), membership ballots | 1916-1927 |
| 2/4 | Minutes of Meetings, minute book, includes minutes of includes minutes of committee meetings, comparative financial statements, notices | 1927-1933 |
| 2/5 | Minutes of Meetings, minute book, includes minutes of committee meetings, comparative financial statements | 1933-1940 |
| 2/6 | Minutes of Meetings, minute book, includes minutes of includes minutes of committee meetings, comparative financial statements | 1940-1948 |
| 2/7 | Minutes of Meetings, minute book, includes minutes of includes minutes of committee and special committee meetings | 1954-1963 |
| 2/8 | Minutes of annual general meetings minute book, includes includes notices, most with annual balance sheets and president's report 1967 | 1925-1969 |
| 2/9 | Minutes of annual general meetings, loose sheets | 1979-1996 |

3. Correspondence

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|-----|---|--------------------|
| 3/1 | Letterbook | 1898-1903 |
| 3/2 | Correspondence, incoming letters re subscriptions, resignations, premises and furnishings, billiard room, bar supplies; Tom Roberts' <i>Opening of the First Parliament</i> | 1901-1906,
1930 |

(painting); F Boatwright; includes letterheads for E Rowlands, cordial manufacturer, Sydney; Fallshan Bros, billiard table manufacturer, Melbourne; John McKenzie & Co., merchants, Launceston; G P Milsom, cordial manufacturer, Launceston; Leslie & Morgan & Co., stockbrokers, Launceston

3/3	Correspondence	1929-1947
3/4	Correspondence concerning the billiard tables	1917-1955
3/5	Accounts from Launceston business: C E Batchelor, milk vendor; James Beck, grocers; Bender & Co., small goods manufacturers etc; A W Birchall & Sons, booksellers etc; Bradbury's, cordials; Davidson & French, auctioneers etc; Dean's Star Bakery; H W Dornauf, butcher; Examiner; Foot & Playsted, printers; Freelands, dairy; French Bros, decorators etc; Gardner & McKenzie, merchants etc; W Hart & Sons, ironmongers; Ingles, importers; Irvine & McEachern, merchants; John McKenzie wholesale grocers etc; A A Lancaster, butcher; Launceston Gas Co; Medhurst & Sons, electrical engineers; Mount Nicholas Coal Co; Rosevear & Burn, plumbers; Shields, fuel providers; R Shott & Son, souvenir, umbrella manufacturers; F H Stephens, shipping agent; F & W Stewart, jewellers; Tasmanian Breweries; Telegraph Printery	1932, 1946

4.Financial Records

4/1	Accounts register Oversize item	1901-1914
4/2	Accounts register Oversize item	1926-1930
4/3	Members' accounts book	1913-1922
4/4	Philp, Lighton, Floyd & Beattie plan, specifications, quotations and correspondence re improvements to club premises, includes drawings; notice of annual general meeting and statement of accounts 1965; bar improvements committee minutes of meeting 3 December 1966; club improvements committee report 1967	1965-1970

5.Membership Records

5/1	Membership nomination forms, with index, include name, residential and town address, profession/occupation, proposer, seconder	1896-1899
5/2	Membership nomination forms, with index, include name, residential and town address, profession/occupation, proposer, seconder	1899-1904
5/3	Membership nomination forms, with index, include name,	1904-1912

residential and town address, profession/occupation, proposer, seconder

5/4	Membership nomination forms, include name, residential and town address, profession/occupation, proposer, seconder	1913-1924
5/5	Membership nomination forms, include name, residential and town address, profession/occupation, proposer, seconder	1924-1933
5/6	Membership nomination forms, include name, residential and town address, profession/occupation, proposer, seconder	1933-1946
5/7	Membership ballot book, includes notices of ballots	1918-1938
5/8	Membership ballot book, includes notices of ballots	1938-1952
5/9	Membership ballot book, includes notices of ballots	1952-1959
5/10	Membership ballot book, includes notices of ballots	1960-1981
5/11	Membership, list of past members, includes name, private/business addresses, occupation, membership status, date of joining, date of resignation or death	1948-1992
5/12	Membership ballot book	1981-1996

6. Miscellaneous Records

6/1	Complaints book	1912-1915
6/2	Suggestions book	1928-1989
6/3	Visitors' book, includes name, address, profession/occupation, club, proposer Oversize item	1899-1916
6/4	<i>Historical Record: The Northern Club Launceston, Tasmania</i> , 1994, includes first office bearers, life members, past presidents, photographs) Oversize item	c1989
6/5	Jubilee brochure and photograph 1944; R A Ferrall <i>The Story of the Northern Club</i> 1994; historical notes, Proposal for Membership forms, unused, c1910; Labour 'How to Vote' slips c1920	1910-1944
6/6	Notices for annual meeting	1928-1931, 1934, 1984- 1995

OTHER SOURCES

QVMAG, Community History, Documentation series, 1999.P.0551

QVMAG, LCC, see LCC4 to 1922-1975, (LCC 3, eg 8/1.30)

Launceston Library, Local History Collection, newspaper cuttings file, 'Northern Club'

N G Harper, *Tasmanian Passes, checks & club tokens* (Hobart, 1985), includes a chapter on the Northern Club

The Examiner, 21 August 1995, 'Historic find gives insight into club'; 7 September 1996, 'Dying club laments passing of the gent'

The Northern Scene, 30 June 1982, 'Northern Club land rich in history'