

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 123

WEINDORFER/CONNELL COLLECTION

Subjects

Cradle Mountain

WWI

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INTRODUCTION

Austrian migrant Gustav Weindorfer (1874–1932) recognised Cradle Mountain’s potential as a tourist resort and national park. Weindorfer and his wife Kate, both keen botanists, built Waldheim Chalet, opening it to guests in 1913. Following Kate’s death in 1916, Gustav lived full-time at Waldheim, hosting visitors and promoting the area across Australia.

Lionel Connell (1884–1960) hunted in Cradle Valley from 1916. Following his friend Gustav Weindorfer’s death, Connell first managed then purchased Waldheim and successfully developed it into a successful wilderness retreat. Connell was also the first Cradle Mountain ranger and was responsible for the development of much of the infrastructure in the northern half of what became the Cradle Mountain–Lake St Clair National Park.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in 1987.

THE RECORDS

Gustav Weindorfer

1. Diaries

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| 1/1 | Personal diary of Gustav Weindorfer (in German) | 1923-1928 |
| 1/2 | Hand written transcript of Gustav Weindorfer's diary | 1923-1928 |

2. Correspondence

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|-----|--|------------|
| 2/1 | Letters from Rosa Moritsch (Weindorfer's sister) to Lionel Connell | 1933 -1939 |
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Lionel Connell

3. Diaries

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| 3/1 | Connell family diary while at Waldheim Chalet | 1934 - 1941 |
| 3/2 | Diary of work done by Lionel Connell in the Reserve | 1935 - 1939 |

4. Correspondence

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|-----|--|-------------|
| 4/1 | Letters to Lionel Connell from his brother Oswald serving in WWI | 1915 - 1918 |
| 4/2 | Miscellaneous correspondence to Connell family | 1939 - 1948 |

5. Manuscripts

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| 5/1 | <i>Tasmanian Odyssey: The account of a walking tour through the North and the North-West of Tasmania with John Cavanagh. Christmas and New Year 1936-7</i> typed manuscript by Kevin Anderson. Gifted to Lionel Connell by author | 1936 - 1937 |
| 5/2 | <i>Tasmania Revisited: being the diary of Kevin Anderson, in which he related the incidents of his travelling to and through Tasmania with his companion, William Foo, from 12th April 1939 to the 26th April 1939.</i> Gifted to Lionel Connell by author | 1939 |

OTHER SOURCES

- Waldheim Chalet Visitors Books 1912-1932
QVM:1991:MS:0002;0004;0005
- Letter - Application for land at Cradle Valley by Kate Weindorfer 1910
QVM:1958.79.3
- Cradle Mountain Reserve Board Minute Books 1930-1974
QVM:1986:MS:0825