



# Launceston Historical Society Inc.

## Newsletter No 136

August 2012

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

*"Bringing together people with an interest in history"*

### **Pugh Day**

On Sunday 17 June, the inaugural Pugh Day lecture was presented by Professor Barry Baker to a large and appreciative audience. The fascinating career of Dr Mark Lidwill (1878-1968), a Sydney anaesthetist, was recounted along with the history of the development of cardiology. Apart from his medical pursuits, Lidwill was a keen fisherman, yachtsman, photographer and golfer. He also mapped the Hawkesbury River in 1926 and was the first in the world to catch a black marlin on a rod and reel. A photograph of Prof. Baker was published in *The Examiner* on 18 June with a maquette of the original design of the William Russ Pugh statue erected in Princes Square.



**Lecturer Professor Barry Baker with Dr Paul Richards, Dr John Morris and Dr John Paull of the LGH Historical Committee.**



**Speaker Robert Warneke and Leonie Prevost.**

### **Sealing in Bass Strait**

On 15 July Robert Warneke presented an interesting talk on the history of sealing in Bass Strait. He has a copy of the original logbook of the voyage of the *Brothers* under the command of 21-year-old James Kelly in 1813. The rat-chewed, kangaroo skin-covered book was discovered in a shed by Sir William Crowther and now is lodged safely in the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office in Hobart. Robert has transcribed and annotated the logbook. It is astounding to learn that on the 14-day voyage from Sydney to western Bass Strait the Kelly gang collected 6,965 seal skins! As a wildlife biologist, Robert spent time on Seal Rock and Albatross Island tagging and counting the replenished seal colonies.

## LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President	Marion Sargent	6331 4890
Vice-President	Catherine Pearce	
Minute Secretary	Catherine Pearce	
Correspondence Secretary	Robyn Jones	6331 2213
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## August Talk

**Craig Joel, *A Tale of Ambition and Unrealised Hope: John Montagu and Sir John Franklin***

**Sunday 19 August 2012 – 2.30pm** at the Meeting Room, QVMAG Museum at Inveresk.

Craig lives in Hobart and is an honorary research associate at the University of Tasmania. He is also an associate editor of the resumed series of Historical Records of Australia.

This afternoon's talk follows on from Craig's most recent publication. His book, *A Tale of Ambition and Unrealised Hope*, went to second edition print in February. It has been acclaimed by leading historians, including Professors John Ritchie and AGL Shaw. The book was reviewed in the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Association* (in June) and recently was included in the *Courier Mail's* '5 Reasons Why You Should Read Australian History'.

Against a backdrop which ranges from London to Hobart, from the imperial metropolis to the colonial frontier, from the Empire's hub to its rim, Craig tells how a civil servant came to usurp Franklin's authority in his desire to curry favour with British Ministers, and in the process profoundly affected the political development of the colony.

## September Talk

**Eleanor Robin, *John Watson, Nineteenth-Century Shipbuilder, Engineer and Entrepreneur***

**Sunday 16 September 2012 – 2.30pm** at the Meeting Room, QVMAG Museum at Inveresk.

Eleanor Robin, a research candidate in history at UTAS, is looking at mercantile influence on the development of Hobart Town. She is examining an enterprising group of merchants, shipowners and master mariners, including the shipbuilder John Watson, who drove the change from a command economy to free enterprise. Eleanor has worked in heritage conservation and Aboriginal affairs; and studied Anthropology and Australian History at ANU.

JOHN WATSON (1801-1887)

Yorkshire-born shipbuilder John Watson participated in significant maritime endeavours during his productive 55 years in Tasmania. He built at least 28 ships of renown; and owned, restored and repaired many others. With his brother George he had shares in the whaling and timber industries. He was a practical person with a great capacity for managing men. Watson trained apprentices; established the government dockyard at Port Arthur; and for the new Hobart Town Marine Board, oversaw the reconstruction of Hobart Town's port facilities and the building of Cape Wickham Lighthouse. His life story highlights the contribution of maritime enterprise to Tasmania's development.

## Advance Notice of Activities

**Launceston Historical Society meetings are held at the Meeting Room, QVMAG Museum at Inveresk, at 2.30pm, unless otherwise notified.**

**Sunday 21 October 2012:** Prof. John Mulvaney, *Encounters in Place*

**Sunday 18 November 2012:** Paul Johnston, *A Tale of Two Cities: 10 Murray Street Hobart 1967 and Henty House Launceston 1982*

### Members' Column

**New Members:** The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new member: Margaret Griggs of the Devonport Maritime Museum & Heritage Centre.

**Archaeology Group:** The next meeting will be in the Phil Leonard Room at the Launceston LINC on Tuesday 28 August 2012 at 1.00pm. Enquiries to John Dent, email: [john.dent@pda.com.au](mailto:john.dent@pda.com.au).

**UTAS Launceston Historical Society Prize:** Awarded for the best History essay written in the year, as determined by the History lecturer/s at the Launceston campus. Eligible to first year History students from Launceston who are intending to make History their degree major. Value \$400.00.

Thomas Hodge was immensely pleased with himself and grateful to the LHS for awarding him the prize for his essay "The War for Opium" – definitely a rewarding start to a History major! This semester Thomas will be delving into Renaissance/Reformation Europe and the Peloponnesian War, which he expects to find extremely interesting.

**History Prize:** Once again the Launceston Historical Society is conducting a History competition for school children from grades 3 to 10. Four Primary grade winners will receive book vouchers worth \$50.00, while four Secondary students will be awarded vouchers for \$75.00. The best entry overall will be awarded the Ratcliff Prize of a \$100.00 book voucher. Teachers from the Senior Secondary schools will select, from each school, one history student – intending to study History at University level – to be awarded a \$100.00 book voucher. The total prize pool is \$1,100.00.

**Westbury Excursion:** See the notice and reply slip on page 6 for information about the day trip to the historic village of Westbury, and Culzean Gardens, on **Sunday 28 October 2012**. Numbers are limited to 23, so don't delay in responding. Cost is \$25.00 per person. Meet the bus at the RSL Club car park in Eardley Street before 9.30am. The estimated time of return is about 4.30pm.

**Papers & Proceedings:** The 2011 P&P have been published. Extra copies are for sale at \$12.00 each. The last five John West Memorial Lectures, from 2008-2012, are available online through our website: <http://launcestonhistory.org.au/activities/previous-john-west-memorial-lectures/>



#### Meet Dianne Cassidy – Committee Member

Born in Burnie on Tasmania's North-West Coast, for the past thirty years Dianne has been employed by the State Library of Tasmania. She is an amateur historian. Regretting not having her own convict ancestors, Dianne has compensated by developing a healthy interest in those claimed by everyone else.

Currently transcribing convict records for the Female Factory Research Group, Dianne also is involved with the Founders and Survivors Ships Project Group. This entails tracing the lives of the convicts on each ship and following down through to their descendants at the time of World War 1.

With Dianne's strong interest in the history of early Launceston, she has published several indexes on convict absconders; and one on patients from the Asylum in New Norfolk. Besides, she has almost completed known listings of those interred in three early Launceston cemeteries: Scotch; Charles Street; and the Catholic Cemetery at Connaught Crescent. And Dianne is busily researching for a book on the prostitutes and brothels of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Launceston. When not researching she enjoys golf and her vegetable garden. Dianne, now in her first year on the LHS Committee, is finding it an eye-opening experience.

## A Story From Our Past

*A plaque with the following text is placed in a granite seat on the corner of Charles and Canning Streets, Launceston:*

### A LINK WITH CHINA?

The story goes that these granite blocks were brought to Tasmania in 1824 by Captain Waddle, of the 235 ton brig 'Amboyna'. He used the blocks, collected in China, reputedly from the Great Wall, to ballast his ship which carried a cargo of tea, sugar and soap.

It appears that Captain Waddle wanted to construct a kerb around the house he had built at 218 Charles Street. As his wish was refused by the local authorities, he used his ship's ballast to do the job himself.

In 1998, Launceston City Council constructed this roundabout and rebuilt the road. Great care was taken to ensure that the granite blocks were laid exactly as the captain had done all those years ago.



## Anglican Parish of Holy Trinity Church, Launceston

*A manuscript in the Local Studies Collection of the Launceston LINC (LMSS 584) includes a photocopy of handwritten notes on the real estate of the parish of Holy Trinity in 1912:*

Cameron and George Streets, Launceston – a block containing 1 acre 0 roods 19 perches. The title to this land is under the Real Property Act being comprised in Grant dated 1875 registered Vol. XXVI folio 193. This title is said to be in the Diocesan Office, Hobart which is the proper place for it. But should it or any other title to our lands be missing it may possibly be found in the office of Messrs Martin & Hobkirk, Solicitors, Launceston (with whom Archdeacon Hales often deposited deeds belonging to the church). It stands in the names of W.C. Sharland, W. Tarleton & W. Lovett the former trustees of property of the Church of England in Tasmania. See Plan No. 1. At the time this record is being made the above block of 1.0.19 is utilized as follows:-

1. A block of nearly half an acre at the South West, bounded on two sides by Cameron and George Streets is vacant, and used for grazing horses : upon it formerly stood old Holy Trinity Church and it is proposed at a future time to extend the new church upon it.
2. Next (Easterly) in Cameron Street is the present Holy Trinity Church, consecrated in December 1902. Among the plans of our church property is one marked Plan A which is a ground plan of the new church as at present which shows the brick trenches provided for a hot water heating service, & which trenches have been used for the cables used for heating the electric radiators in church.
3. Behind the church (to the North West) is a fenced asphalt tennis court with wooden dressing rooms to North East, at present let to the Mia Mia Tennis Club at the rent of £10.10.0 per annum.
4. Next to the church in Cameron Street (Easterly) is a right of way communicating with the yard of the verger's cottage, the tennis court and the stables.
5. Next, Easterly, is the Verger's cottage of brick (four rooms) with fenced yard behind.
6. Behind the Verger's cottage and yard, at some distance along the right of way is a wooden four stalled stable with a cart shed at its Northern end – at present let to Mr E.A. Gee at 14/- per month.
7. Next, in Cameron Street, to the Verger's cottage (Easterly) is the Sunday School Room of brick (called Trinity Hall) with a store room, or cellar, under the class rooms at the back of the Hall : and behind the Hall is a small vacant piece of land at present used by the Verger as a vegetable garden.

## Other Items and Events of Interest

**LGH Historical Committee Seminar 2013:** The Launceston General Hospital Historical Committee is celebrating the LGH Sesquicentenary in May 2013. Paul Richards is extending an invitation to members of the Launceston Historical Society to provide three speakers to participate in a Sesquicentenary Seminar scheduled for Wednesday 15 & Thursday 16 May 2013. A full one hour session has been allocated in the day's proceedings on Wednesday 15 May. The theme will be associated with the history of "Medicine and the Community" (Launceston). Please contact Paul if you are interested: *Myola*, 397 Wellington Street, South Launceston TAS 7249; phone 6349 7111; email [pacrichards1@bigpond.com](mailto:pacrichards1@bigpond.com); <http://www.myolahouseofpublishing.webs.com>.

**Tasmanian Historical Research Association:** Meetings are to be held at the Royal Society Room in the Custom House, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, starting at 8.00pm. 11 September 2012, Eva Meidl, *The historic value of Ludwig Salvator's Drawings of Colonial Hobart in 1881*; 9 October 2012, Tony Marshall, *Ardour and Impatience: NL Kentish in Van Diemen's Land, 1841-49*.

**George Town & District Historical Society:** The next two meetings for 2012 will be held at *The Grove*: 20 August, Show & Tell Evening, *Members to bring along items of interest*; 17 September, Tamar River Paintings & Their Restoration, to be finalised.

**National Book Council:** Guest speaker for the August meeting is Sandra Huett, author of *Only in Tasmania*. Wednesday, 15 August 2012, 1.15pm, Phil Leonard Room, Launceston LINC, Civic Square.

**Rossarden & Storys Creek Museum:** Marita Bardenhagen's *Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Lives* pictorial history of Tasmanian Bush Nursing 1910-1957 is now on display at Rossarden. Open on request or by appointment until June 2013. Admission is by donation. Contact Lorraine Watson, phone 6385 2177 or Marg & Phil Dennis 6385 2147 or [mldennis@skymesh.com.au](mailto:mldennis@skymesh.com.au).

**ABC 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition:** From old radios and recorders to current programs and behind the scenes photos, ABC Tasmania is celebrating 80 years by showcasing its past and present. Displays across three floors track the changes from film to electronic news gathering and the advent of digital technology. They also feature the people who have helped the ABC to connect with the community, thus bringing Australians together. Exhibition at the Launceston LINC, Civic Square from Thursday 16 August to Saturday 22 September 2012. <http://www.abc.net.au/corp/history/80years>

**Oral History of Australia (Tas) Inc:** Oral History Seminar to be held at the meeting room, QVMAG, Inveresk on Saturday 25 August 2012. Registration from 10.00am – afternoon tea at 3.00pm. Speakers are Margaret Eldridge, Ben Ross, Travis Tiddy and Elaine Crisp. Includes lunch and AGM. Cost OHAA members \$20.00, non-members \$30.00. Prior registration essential: phone Lana 6391 1086 or email [lane.wall@activ8.net.au](mailto:lane.wall@activ8.net.au).

**History Ride:** The next Tamar Bicycle Users' Group history ride will be on Sunday 23 September 2012. Marion Sargent will lead a bicycle tour from Prospect Park to Carrick with tea and scones at Entally House on the return ride. 25 kms. Meet in Harley Parade at 9.15am for a 9.30am start. Enquiries: phone 6331 4890 or email [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com).

**LGH Historical Committee:** Seminar "Historical figures and their impact on medicine in Launceston". Speakers are Paul Richards on Dr WP Holman; Deanna Ellis on Miss Milne; and Dan Huon on Dr Francis Drake. Venue: Lecture Theatre level 2, LGH, Charles Street, on Sunday 14 October 2012 at 2.00pm. RSVP by 12 October to Paul Richards 6344 4241 or [pacrichards1@bigpond.com](mailto:pacrichards1@bigpond.com).

**Boland Street Cottages:** A submission has been sent to the Tasmanian Heritage Council objecting to the removal from the Heritage Register of the cottages at 43-45 Esplanade, Launceston, due to deliberate neglect by the owners. The cottages were 'permanently registered' in August 1997.

## Deadlines

Members wishing to place items on the Agenda for the 19 August 2012 LHS Committee Meeting are requested to have these to the President by **13 August 2012**. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 Oct 2012** at [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com) or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.

# Westbury Excursion

Sunday 28 October 2012

- 9.30am Veterans and Community Bus departs from RSL car park, corner of Wellington and Eardley streets.
- 10.00am Arrive at the Westbury Hall car park, Lyall Street, Westbury.  
★ Guided walk by Virginia Greenhill around Westbury. May include St Andrew's Anglican Church, Holy Trinity Catholic Church and Methodist Church.  
★ Follow the silhouette trail.
- 12.00noon Lunch  
History ladies to provide soup & sandwiches at RSL Club
- 1.00pm Re-board bus to see other places of interest, including Irish soldier settlers' area at Queenstown.
- 2.00pm To History Room for afternoon tea and look around displays.
- 3.00pm To Culzean Gardens. Anglo-Indian house built c1841, surrounded by a tranquil woodland garden containing mature exotic trees and hundreds of different conifers and a changing display of flowers.  
There is a three-acre lake with thousands of water irises and water lilies in season.
- 4.00 Board bus and return to Launceston
- 4.30 Proposed arrival back at RSL car park

Please fill out and return the slip below with \$25.00 per person to: The Treasurer, Launceston Historical Society, PO Box 1296, Launceston, TAS 7250, or hand in at a Sunday meeting. Enquiries to Leonie Prevost: [reljprevost@bigpond.com](mailto:reljprevost@bigpond.com) or Marion Sargent: [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com), phone 6331 4890.

<http://westburyhistorical.org.au/homepage.html>;

<http://www.gardenstasmania.com.au/portfolio/culzean-gardens-westbury/>

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<b>Westbury Excursion, Sunday 28 October 2012</b>	Return to:
Name.....	LHS Inc.
Address.....	PO Box 1296
Phone.....Mobile.....	LAUNCESTON TAS 7250
Email.....	\$25.00 per person