



# Launceston Historical Society Inc.

## Newsletter No 138

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

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

### Encounters in Place

On 21 October 2012 Professor John Mulvaney, renowned archaeologist from Canberra, presented an illustrated talk on the encounters between early British and French explorers at Adventure Bay and Recherche Bay in southern Tasmania. He focussed on the period from 1773 to 1793. Relations between the Europeans and Aborigines were friendly. Each group was intrigued to learn about the others. Shell necklaces and medals were exchanged; songs were sung; Aboriginal words were recorded; and drawings were made of the people. Mulvaney successfully nominated Recherche Bay to be listed on the National Register, not just because of the French garden, but to honour the interactions between the sailors and Aborigines.

See *The Examiner* article on 22 October 2012, page 10.



Professor John Mulvaney. Photo: M Sargent



Paul Johnston. Photo: M Sargent

### 10 Murray Street & Henty House

On 18 November 2012, architect and heritage consultant Paul Johnston was the final guest speaker for the year. His talk concentrated on two government buildings which often are referred to as ugly. The brutal post-war architecture called for simple materials like concrete to construct functional, modern and arguably beautiful buildings. As Paul said, "Appreciation of buildings and architecture changes over time." Architects in Hobart were outraged when it was proposed to demolish 10 Murray Street. They see Dirk Bolt's creation as the best tall building in Tasmania. By the time Henty House was built in Launceston's Civic Square, there was a change in thinking. Peter Partridge took his inspiration from the National Theatre in London, with a lower profile more fitting in the historic precinct.

## 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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## Annual General Meeting + Guest Speaker

**Sunday 17 February 2013 – 2.30pm** at the Meeting Room, QVMAG Museum at Inveresk.

**The 2013 AGM** will be held at 2.30pm. See the separate notice of meeting which includes a nomination form for the committee. Nominations are sought to fill all eleven positions on the Executive: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and seven Committee Members. Nominations should reach the Executive on or before Friday, 8 February 2013. Now is the time to join the Committee to help your Society run its active and vibrant program of talks and excursions.

The AGM notification: <http://launcestonhistory.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/AGM2013.pdf>

A PowerPoint show of the past year's activities will run throughout the AGM.

### **Dr Frank Madill, *Sanders DFC: Out of the Darkness***

Dr Frank Madill's lecture will cover the story of the writing of his book *Sanders DFC – Out of the Darkness* – how he came to choose the subject, the research involved, and the process of writing, self-publishing and marketing.

#### **Biography:**

Frank Madill was born at Pakenham Bush Nursing Hospital, east of Melbourne, in 1941. Graduating from Melbourne University in 1965, he moved to Launceston where he spent nearly twenty years as a full-time GP in the northern suburbs. Somehow he also found time to run a Romney Marsh sheep stud. Frank was elected a state parliamentarian in 1986. He became a Minister in 1996. He retired from parliament in 2000 and since then has practised medicine part-time.

In 2004, Frank began part-time lecturing at both the University of Tasmania and the Australian Maritime College. In 2005 he published his best-selling book *If You Faint, Fall Backwards! Medicine: Warts and All*. This was followed in 2006 by *It all Comes Back to Sheep! Farming: Warts and All*.

Well-known around Launceston for his work on radio, singing and community work, Frank is married to Linda and has two daughters, Christine and Catherine.

## Membership Renewals

Annual subscriptions for the Launceston Historical Society were due on 31 December 2012.

Thank you to those who have paid for another year of membership. A 2013 membership form is on the website: <http://launcestonhistory.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/apply3.pdf>

If you are yet to pay, please return to the treasurer, Leonie Prevost, at the next meeting, or post to:

Treasurer, Launceston Historical Society  
PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

# **The Examiner-John West Memorial Lecture**

**Professor Lucy Frost**

## ***The children of mothers in the convict system of Van Diemen's Land***

**Friday 15 March 2013 – 8.00pm** at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, UTAS at Newnham.



**Prof. Lucy Frost of UTAS.**  
Photo: M Sargent

Many women who stood in the docks of the British Empire to hear themselves sentenced to transportation beyond the Seas were mothers. Sentences imposed on mothers fractured the lives of their children. Some would be left behind: to be cared for by relatives; to fend for themselves on the streets; or to suffer the grimness of a workhouse. Others would sail with their mothers on the convict transports, facing their own experiences of exile. In Van Diemen's Land, either they would go into a nursery run as part of a Female Factory, or be sent to the Orphan Schools. Later, while convict women served their sentences in the colony, some would become pregnant, and give birth in a Female Factory—only to be separated from their infants once they were weaned.

This paper explores the experiences of the children, looking at the convict system from their perspective. By focussing on the stories of individual children, it asks what happened when their freedom was compromised and the most intimate contours of their lives forever changed in those courtrooms where their mothers were sentenced.

### **Biography (from the UTAS website):**

Professor Lucy Frost is an Honorary Research Professor in the Department of English, Journalism and European Languages at the University of Tasmania. She was appointed as an Emeritus Professor at UTAS in 2009. She has particular interests in how the past is 'read', and in how those readings are translated into what is called 'cultural heritage'. At present she is asking how one 'reads' the experiences of female convicts transported to Van Diemen's Land, and how one turns those readings into the products of cultural heritage tourism. She has held an ARC Discovery Grant to look at female convicts as women travellers; is a member of the Board of the Female Factory Historic Site (Cascades); co-convenor of the Female Factory Research Group; and a member of the Board of the Tasman Institute for Conservation and Convict Studies. In 2005 with the support provided by a grant from the Sustainable Tourism CRC she created the first site-specific guide to the Female Factory, *Footsteps and Voices*, which was launched in November at the Female Factory Muster, of which she was co-convenor.

Lucy has designed and taught a wide range of units in the fields of American, Australian, and Women's Studies. She is currently teaching an honours unit, 'Endangered Bodies in Colonial Space', and is supervising postgraduate students.

### **Published Books:**

- Frost, Lucy, and Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, eds, *Chain Letters: Narrating Convict Lives*. Melbourne University Press, Carlton 2001. Winner of the 2004 Kay Daniel Prize.
- Frost, Lucy, ed., *Wilde Eve: Eve Langley's Story*. Random House Australia, Sydney 1999.
- Frost, Lucy, ed., *The Journal of Annie Baxter Dawbin 1858-1868*. University of Queensland Press in association with the State Library of New South Wales, St Lucia 1998 (third volume in the series, Academy Editions of Australian Literature, under the auspices of the Australian Academy of the Humanities).
- Frost, Lucy, and Marion Halligan, *Those Women Who Go to Hotels*, Reed Books, Melbourne 1997; rpt. Random House Australia, Sydney 1997.
- Frost, Lucy, *No Place for a Nervous Lady*, Revised 2nd edition, University of Queensland Press, 1995.
- Frost, Lucy. *A Face in the Glass*. William Heinemann Australia, Melbourne 1992; rpt. 1992.



**Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Westbury. Photo: M Sargent**

### **Westbury Excursion**

On Sunday of 28 October 2012 a busload of LHS members enjoyed a wonderful day at Westbury. Thank you to Virginia Greenhill, who led us on a walk around the historic town regaling us with amusing stories of old. We visited three churches, admired many interesting buildings and were impressed by the stories told in the silhouettes. The Westbury Historical Society provided a scrumptious lunch at the RSL Club and afternoon tea at their rooms. Later, escorted by the owner Dinah Fitzgerald, we were blown away by the beauty of *Culzean Gardens*. Thanks also to Brian who drove the Veterans and Community Bus.

### **Vale Dr Marita Bardenhagen**

The Launceston Historical Society committee and members were saddened by the passing of our dear and valued friend, Dr Marita Bardenhagen, who passed away on 19 November 2012. Marita was a caring and generous person whose passion and enthusiasm for history and heritage shone through. Despite the trials with her health over the last couple of years she continued to give advice and fight for our heritage.

Marita joined the Society in August 2002, became a committee member in April 2005 and President in April 2007. She worked to raise the profile of the Society and to encourage more people to participate in historical research and discussion. This was manifested in her support of the LHS History Prize. The \$400.00 donation from the Society to the University of Tasmania – awarded to the first-year history student from Launceston who is intending to make history their degree major – is to be re-named in honour of Marita: Launceston Historical Society-Dr Marita Bardenhagen History Prize.

She will be sorely missed.



**Dr Marita Bardenhagen.**



**Carol Fuller and Mayor Albert van Zetten with three students. Photo: Catherine Pearce**

### **LHS History Prize 2012**

A record number of 171 students from six schools entered posters, essays and PowerPoint presentations for last year's History Prize. On 22 November 2012 at the Town Hall twenty-nine book vouchers were awarded to children from grades three to ten by the Mayor Albert van Zetten. Thank you to Carol Fuller for organising the prize and presentation event, and for Shane How who helped with the judging. Despite her illness, Marita assisted with the initial short listing of entries. It was perhaps fitting that the ceremony coincided with her funeral; it seemed like an extension of the Society's farewell to our past President.

# History Prize Winners 2012

## Grade 3

First prize Aneliza Santamaria  
Highly Commended Thomas Winter  
Amelia Duigan  
Thomas Wood  
Connor Wright

## Grade 4

First Prize Liam Saward  
Highly Commended Olivia Adams  
Kane Costello  
Oliver Johns  
Tom Dwyer  
Ryan Holloway  
Sarah Smith  
Special Mention Anna Suitor (presentation and design)

## Grade 5

First Prize Olivia Street  
Highly Commended Mia Schuemaker & Ruby Waddle  
James Kingsley  
Anneliese Gulliver  
Chelsea Pinkard  
Special Mention Kael Haysom (humour and originality)  
Sienna Hale (presentation and design)  
Charlotte Rand (presentation and design)

## Grade 6

First prize Kira Simmonds  
Highly Commended Olivia Strong  
Special Mention Gabbie Camino (presentation and design)

## Grade 9/10

First Prize Bryden Rigby  
Highly Commended Cody Lowe  
Special Mention Elizabeth Reed

**Eric & Patricia Ratcliff Prize for overall excellence** Charlotte Shegog-Fisher

## Members' Column

**New Members:** The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new member: Ben Thorp.

**Archaeology Group:** Enquiries to John Dent, email: [john.dent@pda.com.au](mailto:john.dent@pda.com.au).

**Way Back When Launch:** Launceston Historical Society members are invited to the launch of the long-awaited book *Way Back When* to be held at 5.30pm on Friday 15 February 2013 at the Launceston College Assembly Hall. RSVP to John Dent: [john.dent@pda.com.au](mailto:john.dent@pda.com.au); 6331 4099 (bh); PO Box 284, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250. Books are \$55.00 each. An invitation and order form are attached.

**Membership Form:** The membership form for 2013 is enclosed with printed newsletters and also is available on our website. Now that the Annual General Meeting is to be held in February, renewals were due on 31 December 2012, one month earlier than previously.

## Deadline

Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 Apr 2013** at [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com) or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.

## Advance Notice of LHS Activities

Launceston Historical Society meetings are held at the Meeting Room, QVMAG Museum at Inveresk, at 2.00pm, unless otherwise notified.

**21 April 2013:** Phoebe Kelloway, *Textile workers' strike, Launceston*

**19 May 2013:** **Tasmanian Heritage Festival – Robyn Jones & committee members (walking tour),** *From Albert to Victoria.* Exploring the history of Cameron Street between the Albert Hall and Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery at Royal Park.

**16 June 2013 Pugh Day:** John Paull, *Walking with Pugh from Hobart to Launceston, in February 1836* & launch of the book *Not Just an Anaesthetist*

**21 July 2013:** Julianne Richards & Kim Simpson, *War Service homes in Newstead*

**18 August 2013:** Alison Alexander, *Lady Jane Franklin*

**15 September 2013:** Rohan Wilson, *The Launceston Railway Riots of 1874*

**20 October 2013:** Eric Ratcliff, *The sinister steeples of Alexander North*

**17 November 2013:** Stephen Dando-Collins, *First World War topic to be advised*

## Other Items and Events of Interest

**Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery at Inveresk:** The Australian War Memorial Travelling Exhibition *Nurses: From Zululand to Afghanistan* will be open to the public from Saturday 16 February.

**Tasmanian Historical Research Association:** This meeting will be held in the Theatre at the Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel, 1 Macquarie Street, Hobart, starting at 8.00pm. 12 February 2013, Beth McLeod, *Personal perspectives in the writings of a World War II serviceman* & Dan Sprod, *Flinders in exile on Ile de France (Mauritius) 1804-1810.*

**George Town & District Historical Society meetings:** 18 February 2013, Hillwood evening; 18 March 2013, Pipers River evening. Email: [info@gtdhs.com](mailto:info@gtdhs.com). Web: [www.gtdhs.com](http://www.gtdhs.com).

**The Tasmanian Exhibition, Launceston 1891-92:** See the attached pre-order form for publication of this book, incorporating the Launceston Family Album portraits and biographical information. Order before 1 March 2013 and pay \$50.00. The scheduled publication date is June 2013 at \$60.00.

**A Gathering on the Norfolk Plains:** A full program of events is planned over the weekend of 1-3 March 2013 to commemorate 200 years since the Norfolk Islanders settled the plains. On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> our member Dr Nic Haygarth will be launching his book *The Norfolk Plains: A History of Longford, Cressy, Perth and Bishopsbourne, Tasmania.* See this website for more information: [www.norfolkplains.com.au](http://www.norfolkplains.com.au).

**Library Book Fair:** The Friends of the Library, Launceston, annual book fair is to be held on Saturday 2 March 2013 at St Ailbe's Hall, Margaret Street. Proceeds support library services at Launceston LINC.

**Longford History Ride:** The next Tamar Bicycle Users' Group history ride will be on Sunday 3 March 2013. Marion Sargent will lead a bicycle tour from Prospect Park, Harley Parade, to the Blessing of the Harvest Festival at Longford via Pateena Road and return. Meet at 9.15am for a 9.30am start. 36.6 kms. Enquiries: phone 6331 4890 or email [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com).

**LGH Historical Committee Seminar 2013:** The Launceston General Hospital Historical Committee is celebrating the LGH Sesquicentenary (15-17 May 2013) with a medical history and research seminar. More information will be available in due course. Please contact Paul Richards: *Myola*, 397 Wellington Street, South Launceston TAS 7249; phone 6349 7111; email [pacrichards1@bigpond.com](mailto:pacrichards1@bigpond.com); <http://www.myolahouseofpublishing.webs.com>.

**Photographs of Tasmania:** See an interesting collection of Tasmanian photographs on the UK's National Archives website: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/australasia/> and through LINC Tasmania's homepage: <http://www.historypin.com/channels/view/id/13783011/#/home>.