



# Launceston Historical Society Inc.

## Newsletter No 143

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

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

### Welcome to the New Committee Members for 2014

The new committee for 2014 was elected at the AGM on Sunday 16 February. We welcome the latest recruits: Steve Jones, Prue McCausland (Correspondence Secretary) and Anne Neale. Marion Sargent was re-appointed President. The other committee members are Catherine Pearce (Vice-President and Minute Secretary), Leonie Prevost (Treasurer and Public Officer), Georgia Fountoulaki, Robyn Jones, Gus Green, Sue McClarron and Terry Neal. Jon Addison and Dianne Cassidy did not re-stand. We thank them sincerely for their contribution.

The 2013 Annual Report can be read online: <http://launcestonhistory.org.au/publications/annual-reports/>

### Guest Speaker Dr Stefan Petrow

At the AGM on Sunday 16 February 2014 Dr Stefan Petrow presented an interesting talk on the origins of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The Launceston Society was established in 1879. It strove to change attitudes by education and sometimes prosecution. Women were predominant in the Society; but for the first 51 years the Mayor was chairman. For horses and dogs, the Society provided water troughs – two of which still survive today. Prizes were awarded at shows for the best-cared-for horses. This created keen competition, particularly among wood carters.



Speaker Dr Stefan Petrow and President Marion Sargent.

### Marita Bardenhagen Memorial Award for Local History

The Marita Bardenhagen Memorial Award for Local History was launched on Friday 28 February 2014 by the Minister for Heritage, the Hon. Brian Wightman. Almost 50 of Marita's friends, family and colleagues attended the launch in Launceston.

The Marita Bardenhagen Memorial Award for Local History is a biennial prize to honour the memory of well-known Tasmanian historian Dr Marita Bardenhagen. The aim of the Award is to encourage local historians to publish the results of their research. The Award is for a book with significant Tasmanian local history content. The Award will be determined by an independent judging panel of three, approved by the Trustees of the Award. Entries for the inaugural Award will close on 14 June 2014. For more information about the Award, please contact Dr Dianne Snowden at [dsnowden@tassie.net.au](mailto:dsnowden@tassie.net.au).

## The Examiner-John West Memorial Lecture



Professor Philip Payton with his wife Dee at the Lecture.  
Photo: M Sargent.

Professor Philip Payton presented the 26<sup>th</sup> John West Lecture to more than 250 people at UTAS on Friday 14 March 2014. His topic *From Launceston to Launceston – Perspectives on the Cornish in Australia* generated much discussion on the pronunciation of the town with that name in Cornwall, England. Philip's entertaining lecture focussed on the connections between Cornish visitors and migrants who came to Australia. He was introduced by Martin Gilmour, Editor of *The Examiner*, and Professor Michael Bennett offered a vote of thanks. See the excellent double-page spread in *The Examiner* on 1 March 2014 titled *A tale of two cities*. Also on 15 March page 9 is another article on the lecture.

### April Talk

#### Jenny Gill: *Early Launceston Hospitals*

**Sunday 13 April 2014 – 2.00pm** at the Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk.

In early 1831, several of Jenny Gill's ancestors arrived free in Launceston; others came in chains. Where did our ancestors seek medical help? Jenny will talk on Launceston's health care facilities before the Launceston General Hospital was opened in 1863.

Jenny attended Broadland House School, after which she was to follow a mixed career. As a member of St John's Church, she discovered her love of local history and, for the last 30 years, has studied many aspects of our community's history. Jenny was a founding member of the Launceston Historical Society, and has presented several papers at our meetings. Apart from writing local histories, over Christmas, Jenny – together with John Dent – prepared all the research for *The Sharland Map 1826* project recently launched on the Launceston City Council's website. See the link here: <http://launceston.maps.arcgis.com/home/>



### May: Tasmanian Heritage Festival

#### Robyn Jones and Committee members (walking tour):

#### *Monuments and Monkeys: A Walk in Historic City Park*

**Sunday 18 May 2014 – 2.00pm**, at the City Park Gates, Tamar Street, Launceston

For the National Trust Heritage Festival this year, Launceston Historical Society Committee members will conduct a walk in historic City Park. Meet at the gates in Tamar Street before 2.00pm for the start of the walk. Many layers of history in the Park will be explored: from the 1807 Government Cottage to the Launceston Horticultural Society gardens; Tasmanian tigers to monkeys; Albert Hall and the Tasmanian Exhibition; besides fountains, statues, cannon, pear tree, bandstands, church and hall, gardens and memorials. It is all here in what was and is – the People's Park. Afterwards enjoy tea and scones at Victoria's Café on City Park for \$5.00 while browsing through the display of many old photographs of the Park.



## Tony Robinson's visit to Launceston – again



British TV historian Sir Tony Robinson returned to Launceston in March 2014 to film an episode of his new series *Tour of Duty*. LHS members formed part of the crowd in the Brisbane Street Mall to film the naval hero Teddy Sheean segment on 12 March 2014. The Community Day at the QVMAG at Inveresk on 15 March was a resounding success. The Society held a stall which enabled us to talk to visitors about our activities and to field questions of an historical nature. The four volunteers also had an opportunity to watch and to be part of the filming. The crew were inundated with items of memorabilia the community had brought along from a century of war.

Wayne and Terese Binns, Catherine Pearce and Terry Neal at the Community Day. Photo: M Sargent.

## UTAS History Prize

**Madeline Johnston** was the 2013 recipient of the \$400.00 History Prize awarded to a first-year UTAS student. Madeline has joined our Society. She states that:

During my last year of college in 2012, I was completely unsure of what I wanted as my future career, so on a whim I signed up for a Modern World History course. By the end of the year, I had fallen in love with the subject and decided to study it further at the University of Tasmania, with a focus on European History.

Throughout 2013, as I continued to study history, I decided that whatever my career would be I wanted it to include history. I have signed up for three different history courses for my first semester of second year, and will most likely do the same for second semester. However, I am still unsure of whether or not I want to become a history teacher for high school and college students, or continue studying history and become an historian.

## History in our Streets Launch

The well-attended launch of the re-printed book *History in our Streets* by John and Don Morris was held on 28 March 2014 at the Punchbowl Christian Centre. President Marion Sargent gave a brief outline of Dr John Morris' association with the LHS. The guest speaker, Eric Ratcliff, held a conversation with the authors. The event was organised in conjunction with the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust. John and Don are pictured signing books: soft cover selling at \$34.95 and leather bound at \$65.00.



**New Members:** The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Madeline Johnston, Kathleen Mitchell and Eve Thorp.

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

**Vale Stan Payne:** Members will be sorry to hear of the death of Harold Stanley (Stan) Payne who passed away in Launceston on 17 February 2014 aged 87. Stan was a long-term member and staunch supporter of the LHS. He will be sadly missed. The Society extends its sincere sympathy to Stan's family and friends.

## Advance Notice of LHS Activities for 2014

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

- 15 June** Pugh Day – Dr Chris Ball, *Cobras, chloroform and consumption – the life and times of Joseph T Clover*
- 20 July** Roger Kellaway, *Third Basin Gold Rush*
- 17 August** Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, *Imprisonment and the Family*
- 21 September** Joint Seminar with the Oral History Association –  
Michael Bennett, UTAS, *Smallpox Epidemics*  
Peter Henning, *WWII Nurses*  
Tom Gunn and Anne Green, *Writing the History of St Giles*
- 19 October** Nick Clements *Frightened to Death: Colonists' Experience of Aboriginal Violence in Tasmania*
- 26 October** Robert Smith, *Excursion to Springfield*
- 16 November** Steve Radford, *History of Telecommunications*

### Other Items and Events of Interest

**QVMAG Art Gallery, Royal Park:** *Strike a Light!* QVMAG's first featured Community Collector, Jenny Gill, has a fascination with history and a wonderful eccentric collection of matchbooks and matchboxes that will delight and surprise all who see the exhibition. Until 8 June 2014; open daily.

**George Town & District Historical Society:** Meetings are held at *The Grove*. 21 April 2014, *TBA*; 19 May 2014, *Middle Island*. Email: [info@gtdhs.com](mailto:info@gtdhs.com). Web: [www.gtdhs.com](http://www.gtdhs.com).

**Tasmanian Historical Research Association:** Meetings take place in the Royal Society Room, Custom House, TMAG, Hobart, starting at 8.00pm. 8 April 2014, Steve Thomas, *Creating Historical Films and Websites*; 13 May 2014, Nicola Goc, *Reading migrant women's lives through snapshot photography: the Tasmanian experience*.

#### LAUNCESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Minute Secretary	Catherine Pearce	
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### Deadline

Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 June 2014** at [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com) or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.