

# Launceston Historical Society Inc.

## Newsletter No 148

April 2015

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

*Bringing together people since 1988 with an interest in history*

### Welcome to the new Committee Members for 2015

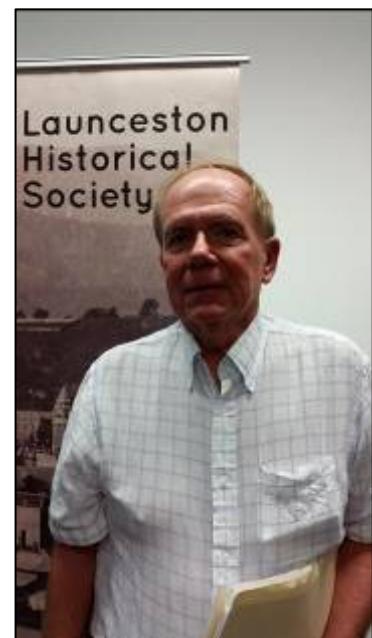
The new committee for 2015 was elected at the AGM on Sunday 15 February 2015. We welcome one new recruit, Andrew Woodgate. Marion Sargent was re-appointed President. The other committee members are Catherine Pearce (Vice-president and Minute Secretary), Leonie Prevost (Treasurer and Public Officer), Prue McCausland (Correspondence Secretary) Georgia Fountoulaki, Robyn Jones, Steve Jones, Sue McClarron, Terry Neal and Anne Neale. Gus Green did not re-stand. We thank him sincerely for his contribution to the committee over the past five years.

The 2014 Annual Report can be read online: <http://launcestonhistory.org.au/publications/annual-reports/>

### Guest Speaker, Dr Tom Dunning

At the AGM, Dr Tom Dunning gave a talk on the *Fabric of Launceston*, a new history that he, Paul Richards and Barbara Valentine are facilitating. John Reynolds' book, *Launceston: History of an Australian City* published in 1969, concentrates on the period before 1945. The new history is to be presented thematically, and will weave the many threads of the history of Launceston into a metaphorical fabric. This is to be a collaborative work. Research by people in the community is being brought together in a story which says something new about Launceston's history.

The early parts of the book will cover the influence of York Town and George Town on the development of Launceston. This will be followed by chapters on financial and civic enterprises, including commerce, industry, philanthropy, religion, education and health. Chapters on diversity and difference will include contributions from the immigrant, arts, culture and sport communities. A section on change and growth will discuss progressivism, politics, women, men's organisations, the rivers and urbanisation. Tom Dunning is pictured at the meeting.



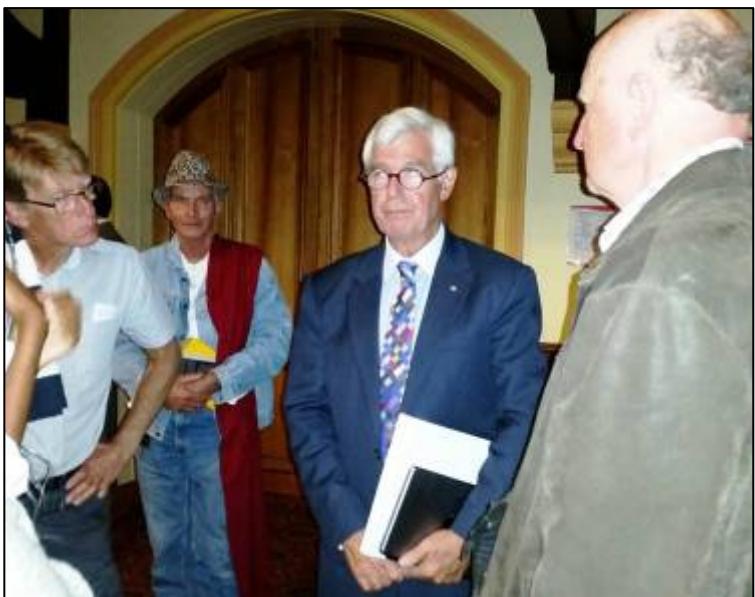
### Membership renewals – reminder

Annual subscriptions for the Launceston Historical Society were due on 31 December 2014. For those who have not yet paid, a [membership form](#) can be accessed on the website.

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**



Julian Burnside QC presented the 27<sup>th</sup> John West Lecture at the Albert Hall on Friday 13 March 2015. His topic – *We can do much better* – was well received by the appreciative crowd of approximately 700 people. The renowned advocate for human rights and fair treatment of refugees emphasised that it is not illegal to seek asylum in Australia. We are signatories to the Refugees Convention and therefore should be providing protection to people fleeing persecution. Professor David Rich gave a brief address on the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University of Tasmania and Mark Baker, Editor of *The Examiner*, introduced the guest speaker. Prue McCausland gave a vote of thanks. The full text of Mr Burnside's talk is on our website: <http://launcestonhistory.org.au>.

**Julian Burnside QC after the John West Lecture.**  
Photo: Marion Sargent

## **April Talk**

**Julian Burgess: Private William Gow: A Tasmanian ambulance man at Gallipoli**

**Sunday 12 April 2015 – 2.00pm at the Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk**

### **About the talk**

William Gow was 23 when he volunteered for military service in August 1914. After two months of training at the Pontville army camp he joined 1100 other Tasmanians on the troop ship HMAT Geelong with the first contingent of Australian soldiers for the war in Europe.

Private Gow was allocated to C Section of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Ambulance and worked as a medical attendant on hospital ships and in field hospitals and dressing stations at Gallipoli. He was invalided back to Australia in 1916.

After the war William Gow became a successful Launceston businessman and helped numerous community organisations. In August 1927 he was elected chairman of the first meeting of what was to become Launceston Legacy.

The book *William Gow's Anzac Diary, Serving with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Ambulance at Gallipoli* uses William Gow's unpublished wartime diary to tell the story of Tasmanian ambulance men who served at Gallipoli.

It was published last year by Launceston Legacy as a Centenary of Anzac project.

### **About Julian Burgess**

Julian Burgess is a former Associate Editor of *The Examiner* where he worked in the printing area, editorial department and as a departmental manager for 45 years.

Now semi-retired, he was involved in the production of several of *The Examiner's* award-winning local history supplements. He has written hundreds of articles on local history and continues to contribute to local history projects.

He is the author and editor of books on yachting and local history including *The Outcome of Enterprise, Launceston's Waverley Woollen Mills* and *Cruel Wind: Business Post Naiad and the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race Disaster*.



## May Talk



### Anne Neale: Charles Street, from Prince's Square to the Cenotaph

**Sunday 17 May 2015 – 2.00pm at the Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk**

Part of the National Trust Tasmanian Heritage Festival, “Conflict & Compassion”.

Anne will present a virtual walk from Princes Square along Charles and Paterson Streets to the Cenotaph in Royal Park. The themes of conflict and compassion will be explored as the history of the buildings and monuments are revealed.

## June – Pugh Day Lecture

### **Dr Rod Westhorpe: From etheriser to anaesthetist: The development of a medical specialty**

**Sunday 21 June 2015 – 2.00pm at the Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk**

When William Pugh gave Australia’s first surgical anaesthetic in 1847, he was a family doctor, surgeon, pharmacist, and pathologist. For many years afterwards, any doctor, dentist, and even nurse, orderly, student or receptionist might administer the ether while the surgeon operated.

In the early twentieth century in Australia, general practitioners gave nearly all anaesthetics, often under the direction of the surgeon, and this practice continued until the 1950s. Equipment was basic, monitoring unusual, and the not infrequent death was explained as “he couldn’t take the anaesthetic”.

During the first half of the twentieth century, many new drugs were developed and tried in anaesthesia. Some came from unlikely sources, including fumigation of wheat silos, jungle arrow poison, and the “Manhattan Project”. Many had serious side effects, and some were explosive. The new impetus in pharmacological research and greater knowledge of physiology, along with developments in materials and electronics, led to extraordinary developments in the science and practice of anaesthesia.

The 70 years from 1940 saw the transition from the general practitioner dripping ether onto a gauze mask, to today’s highly skilled and trained specialist using an array of science and new technology.

### **Dr. Rod Westhorpe OAM FRCA FANZCA**

Dr Rod Westhorpe is a retired paediatric anaesthetist who has maintained a longstanding interest in anaesthesia history. He was a consultant at the Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne for 31 years, 20 as Deputy Director.

He has recently retired after 25 years as the Honorary Curator of the Geoffrey Kaye Museum of Anaesthetic History at the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists in Melbourne. He was President of the Australian Society of Anaesthetists from 1998 to 2000 and a member of College Council from 1995 to 2007. He is a Life Member of the Society. Together with Christine Ball he has written historical cover notes for each issue of the journal “Anaesthesia and Intensive Care” since February 1989. The first twenty years of cover notes were published as “Historical Notes on Anaesthesia and Intensive Care”.

He is joint author and editor, with Edmond Eger and Lawrence Saidman, of a major work on the history of anaesthesia, “The Wondrous Story of Anesthesia”, published in 2013.

With Professor Jan Davies, he is the co-author of “All about Anaesthesia”, a book written for the non-medical reader, now published as a free access website at [www.allaboutanaesthesia.com.au](http://www.allaboutanaesthesia.com.au).

He is the author or co-author of a large number of papers and book chapters, on both historical and clinical anaesthesia and has been an invited lecturer at numerous national and international meetings.

Dr Westhorpe was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for “services to medicine as an anaesthetist” on Australia Day 2012.

## Members' column

### New members:

The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Pauline Cartwright, Linda Clark, Danny Gibson, Darren McKay, Angie Nielsen and Robert Rodgers

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

### New publication by member

**Dianne Cassidy**, *Charles Street General Cemetery 1841 to 1925: Launceston's Non-Denominational Burial Ground*. This volume includes a brief history, plan, photographs and alphabetical index to the 6,000 people known to be buried in the General Cemetery, now Ockerby Gardens. A valuable resource for family and local historians. Available from the author for \$30.00. Email: [penders10@gmail.com](mailto:penders10@gmail.com).

### Advance notice of LHS activities for 2015

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

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 19 July      | <b>John Paull</b> , <i>Count Strzelecki in VDL 1840-42</i>                                 |
| 16 August    | <b>John Shepherd</b> , <i>A Tourist's Walk with Max Oldaker through Central Launceston</i> |
| 20 September | <b>Nic Haygarth</b> , <i>Historic Tasmanian Bushmen</i>                                    |
| 18 October   | <b>John Watts</b> , <i>Low Head Leading Lights</i>   |
| 15 November  | <b>Anne Neale</b> , <i>Horace Bennett, Architect of the Launceston Town Hall</i>           |

### UTAS History Prize

**Cassandra Berry** was the 2014 recipient of the \$400 Launceston Historical Society – Dr Marita Bardenhagen History Prize awarded to a first-year UTAS student. Her letter of thanks included the following:

I would like to take this opportunity to express to the whole of the Launceston Historical Society my deep gratitude.

I never met Dr Bardenhagen; I have, however, heard of her before, and seen some of her work. By all accounts she was a remarkable woman. Her values and convictions, from what little I know of Dr Bardenhagen, seem strikingly similar to my own, and her life of meaningful work is something I aspire to one day emulate. I am honoured to receive a prize created in her memory.

Whatever my future endeavours, I will remember her example. Although, rest assured, I certainly do intend to continue to study history for some time yet!

### From the Federation of Australian Historical Societies Inc

#### e-Bulletin No. 134 – 8 March 2015

##### Reuse of Glengarry Church north west of Launceston, Tasmania

The historic timber Glengarry Presbyterian Church was purchased by international artist Pieter Zaanstra in September 2014. Extensive maintenance was done to bring the White Church Gallery to condition for reopening on 26 December 2014. The spiritual integrity of the church remains. Church pews have been used in the gallery. A church pew celebrating the centenary 1835-1935 was seen in the church on 31 December 2012.

(Source: *The Examiner* (Launceston) 27 December 2014 p.43 including two photographs; Personal visit to the locality on 31 December 2012)

# Monuments & Monkeys: a walk in historic City Park

## Independent Congregational Chapel & Price Memorial Hall

By Sue McClarron



E. HORNUNG PRICE MEMORIAL HALL AND INDEPENDENT CHURCH, LAUNCESTON,

Source: *Cyclopedia of Tasmania*, vol. 2, 1900, p. 38

'Eagle Rock' was performed publicly for the first time by Daddy Cool.

In 1837 Rev. Price's Congregational Chapel was built on the site of the present Dutch Garden. It was the first Congregational Church building in the north of the state. A chapel, school and residence were built on the quarter acre of land that Price was granted. In his book, *FLOTSAM AND JETSAM*, Henry Button recalls having lessons in the basement of the Price family home. He describes the minister's house as being "at the end of the chapel". In the 1830s there was no City Park, but Government Cottage had extensive gardens and Button recalls how the boys from Rev. Price's school would use the gardens as a playground and would feast on plums that dropped from the Government trees.

There are photos which show a cottage behind the chapel and this has sometimes been called the minister's residence. However, William McGowan, Superintendent of Parks and Reserves, always called it the "foreman's residence", and it was not built until at least the 1880s. The *Cyclopedia of Tasmania* throws some light on the location of the Prices' house, at least in the early days. When describing the Tamar Street Chapel the *Cyclopedia* states: "It combined within its walls chapel, school, and minister's residence".<sup>1</sup> Price served as minister gratuitously at the Chapel for 14 years to pay off the debt from building it. To support his family, he opened a Grammar School (in 1836) and conducted it there for 26 years.

In a newspaper advertisement he professed to teach "reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, composition, book-keeping, merchants' accounts, history (ancient and modern), geography, mapping, French, Latin, Greek and Hebrew, mathematics, shorthand, music, drawing, colouring and natural and mental philosophy."

In 1920 the Launceston City Council called for tenders for the lease of the building but had not received any offers, so in May 1920 the Council made the decision to demolish the Chapel.<sup>2</sup>

The building beside the Dutch Garden was built to provide larger premises for the Congregational Church, which once stood where the Dutch Garden is now. The hall was opened in 1896. The architect was Alfred Luttrell. Tasmanian timbers were used for the interior, hardwood for the ceiling and blackwood for dado and doors. The hall was named the Price Memorial Hall to commemorate 55 years of service by the Rev. Charles Price to the Congregational and general community. Rev. Price had died just five years prior, in 1891.

The hall served many uses through the years. In 1965 it was renovated to become the Little Theatre. Here in 1971 the Australian rock classic

<sup>1</sup> *Cyclopedia of Tasmania*, vol 2, 1900, p. 37

<sup>2</sup> *The Examiner*, 21 May 1920, p. 5

# Monuments & Monkeys: a walk in historic City Park

## The Boer War Memorial

By Georgia Fountoulaki

The Boer Wars (also referred to as the 'War in South Africa') during 1880–1881 and 1899–1902 were wars fought by the British Empire against the two independent Boer republics, the Orange Free State and the Transvaal Republic. The Boer War memorial commemorates troops from Northern Tasmania who participated in those Wars and it was erected in 1904.

Australians were keen to participate in the war to uphold British right and demonstrate their loyalty to the empire. As the enemy was highly mobile (guerilla war) and the fighting was conducted over great distances, the British Army requested Australia to supply mounted troops. Special Bushmen's Contingents were raised from civilians who could shoot and ride. In 1902 eight battalions of Australia Commonwealth Horse were sent.<sup>3</sup>

Crafted by the local stonemason Sylvanus Wilmot, the memorial is inspired by medieval ecclesiastical Gothic architecture, and features a pointed arched 'window', blind arcading, and statues.

The memorial is a multi-sided sandstone obelisk, 5-metres tall, with a rare white marble female figure of 'Australia' in Grecian robes<sup>4</sup> on top of the memorial, holding a wreath and a kite, or Norman shield. It is said to be the only monument of its kind in Australia featuring a female figure.<sup>5</sup>

The heraldic shield features a lion in the passant position. The base is square in shape and at the centre of the monument are decorative arches with four niches on each of the four corners of the centre section. In a Gothic church these would usually contain statues of saints, but here they instead contain statues of soldiers. Two hold rifles, one holds a bugle and one holds a sword.<sup>6</sup> The monument is surrounded by a tall, ornate, gated, iron fence.

The memorial was used for Remembrance and Anzac Day services until the War Memorial was erected in Royal Park in the 1920s.



Source: Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office

<sup>3</sup> The Oxford Companion to Australian History.

<sup>4</sup> Knaggs, Sheridan et al, *Launceston City Park Conservation Management Plan*, 2006, p.75

<sup>5</sup> Anne Green, *A model municipality: places of management, mentoring & medicine in Launceston*, 2007, p. 69.

<sup>6</sup> "Boer War Memorial, Launceston, Tasmania", *Medievalism in Australian Cultural Memory*, accessed 5 January 2014, <http://ausmed.arts.uwa.edu.au/items/show/1018>.

# William Ignatius Thrower

By Barbara Valentine

William Ignatius Thrower has the distinction of being subscriber number 1 when the Launceston Telephone Exchange commenced operation on 12 December 1883. At that time he was the owner and licensee of the International Hotel in Brisbane Street (then on the north side between Charles and St John streets). During his business career William had a number of occupations, including draper, hotel keeper, cordial manufacturer and mining and commission work. He also served as an alderman on the Launceston Municipal Council from 1890 to 1893. William married Mary Anne (later known as Marian) Kean at Campbell Town on 3 December 1868. They had three children, William Robert, Marian Isabel and Estelle Clare. Failing health caused him to give up business and he died in Sydney on 17 June 1900.

Despite William being amongst the first in Launceston to embrace the new technology, his wife Marian has left a more enduring record on Launceston history. Marion was a journalist, an unusual occupation for a woman at that time. For some years she wrote articles for the *Daily Telegraph* and *The Colonist* using the pseudonym 'Ladybird' and during a trip to the United Kingdom when she accompanied her son who was to study medicine in Edinburgh, (WR Thrower graduated LRCP Edin., 1892) she wrote for the London serial *Queen*. Whilst in London she represented the Northern Tasmanian Horticultural Society at the National Chrysanthemum Society's conference, presenting a paper on 'The Chrysanthemum in Tasmania'. From its inception she was involved in the Queen Victoria Hospital for Women.

However she is perhaps best known as Mrs WI Thrower, author of the novel *Younah! a Tasmanian Aboriginal romance of the Cataract Gorge*, (1894). The Throwers lived in Trevallyn not far from the Gorge in the 1890s. Mrs Thrower died in Launceston on 23 September 1901, survived by her son Dr Thrower and daughter Marian, the wife of Samuel Alexander Campbell.

William and Marian Thrower can indirectly share a claim to fame for they are the grandparents of the subject of Jonathan King's book, *Gallipoli: our last man standing, the extraordinary life of Alec Campbell* (2003).

(Thrower Street is named after William's father, Robert, who owned land in the area.)

**References:** *Launceston Examiner* 3 December 1883, p.3 annual licensing meeting; *Examiner* 19 June 1900, p. 5; Wise's *Tasmanian Post Office Directory* 1890-91, cordial factory, George Street; Walch's *Tasmanian Almanac* 1890-1893; Tasmanian Names Index; Karen Barnes, 'Marian Thrower: 'Ladybird' returns to Launceston', in *On the tide* 3 (2007); Walch's *Tasmanian Almanac* 1893; *Daily Telegraph* 26 September 1901, p.2; Prue McCausland and Marion Sargent, *The Tasmanian Exhibition 1891-92*, biography of Samuel Alexander Campbell (2013); John and Donald Morris, *History in our streets*, (2nd edition 2013); *Launceston Examiner* 7 March 1889

## Launceston Cake

Try this tasty loaf found in the *Illustrated Tasmanian Mail*, 15 Feb 1934, page 15



Quarter cup butter,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar, 2 tablespoons chopped orange peel, 2 eggs, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 1 teaspoon salt, 4 tablespoons orange marmalade, 1 tablespoon orange rind, 2 cups flour,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped walnuts,  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup water.

### Method

Stir sugar into the butter. Add egg yolks, orange marmalade, grated and chopped peel and nuts. Sift flour, baking powder and salt together and add alternately with liquid. Fold in stiffly beaten egg whites and bake in loaf pan in a moderate oven for 55 minutes, or until cake is well browned on top and shrinks slightly from sides of pan.

## Other items and events of interest

**Tasmanian Family History Society:** Launceston Branch AGM will be held at 7.00pm, on Tuesday, 21 April 2015 at the Harry Abbott Scout Hall. Speaker: Marion Sargent, *Old cemeteries of Launceston*.

**Launceston Heritage Awards:** The City of Launceston 2015 Heritage Awards are now open. There are five categories including a new one, Heritage Garden and Landscape. Heritage Snap! is open to school age entrants with the theme of Launceston's industrial heritage. The Heritage Project categories close on 22 April and the Heritage Snap! category closes on 29 April. For more information visit [www.launceston.tas.gov](http://www.launceston.tas.gov) and click the Heritage Awards button or call Fiona Ranson on 6323 3370 or email [heritageawards@launceston.tas.gov.au](mailto:heritageawards@launceston.tas.gov.au).

**Tony Robinson's Tour of Duty:** The Launceston episode filmed in March 2014 is scheduled to be broadcast on the Foxtel History channel on Tuesday 5 May 2015 at 7.30pm. Were you there when Sir Tony filmed the Teddy Sheean segment in the Brisbane Street Mall or at the Community Day at the Museum?

**QVMAG:** An Art High exhibition is to be held in July 2015. Students from years 7 to 10 have the opportunity to submit works of art inspired by one of three objects held by the Museum. The works must connect to the theme of peace and finding pathways for change. The selected objects are: The Lion's Tooth said to be from a catacomb of a church in Rome; an old camera owned by Daniel Green (father of our member Alison Green) who served in World War II and took photos of everyday life as a gun layer in the Army; and a watercolour painting by Launceston-born artist Geoff Tyson, who was a prisoner of war in Japan and painted an image of the US army dropping survival rations after the atomic bomb was dropped. The deadline for submissions is 2 June 2015.

**George Town & District Historical Society:** Meetings to be held at *The Grove*: 20 April 2015, David Reid, *Making of a nation*; 18 May 2015, John Watts, *Comalco Days*; 15 June 2015, GTDHS Committee, *Five minutes of fame*. 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: 14 April 2015, David Palmer, *Tasmanian tin smelters 1875-1901*; 12 May 2015, Penny Edmonds, *Tasmanian tourist motifs and dark pasts and the Proclamation Cup*; 9 June 2015, John Honey, *A Tasmanian life*.

### Launceston Historical Society

|                          |                  |                           |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| President                | Marion Sargent   | 6331 4890                 |
| Vice-President           | Catherine Pearce |                           |
| Minute Secretary         | Catherine Pearce |                           |
| Correspondence Secretary | Prue McCausland  | 6327 2540                 |
| Treasurer                | Leonie Prevost   | 6391 5511                 |
| Newsletter Editor        | Marion Sargent   | 6331 4890                 |
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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/launcestonhistory>

### Deadline

Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 July 2015** at [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com) or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.