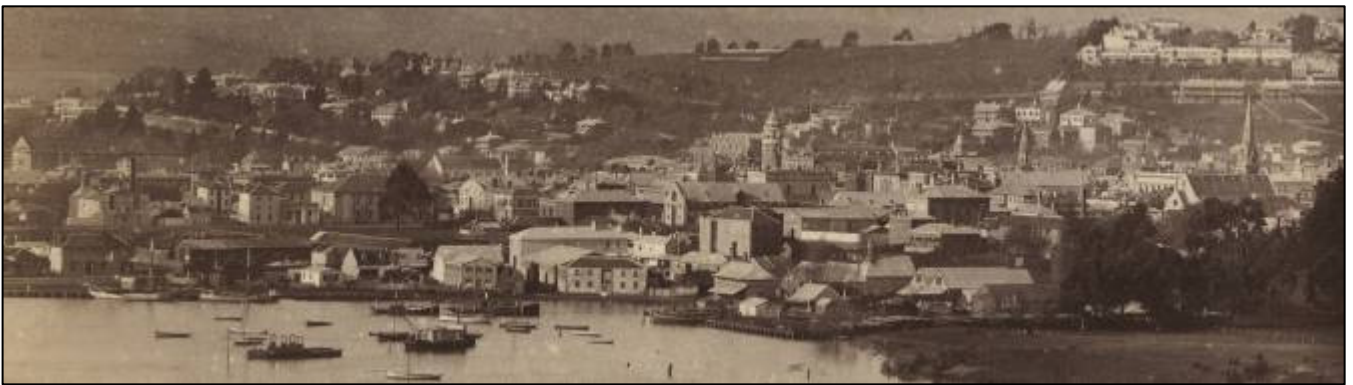




Launceston Historical Society Inc.

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

Annual Report for year ending 31 December 2014



Alfred Coleman Bonner, 'Launceston from Trevallyn', 12 March 1890. TAHO Launceston, LPIC 21, NTCC Album 6, No 171

**Presented at its Annual General Meeting held at the
Meeting Room, QVMAG Museum at Inveresk
Sunday 15 February 2015**

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Introduction

As President of the Launceston Historical Society (LHS), and on behalf of the members and visitors here today, I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which this event is taking place.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to present the Annual Report of the Launceston Historical Society for the financial year ending 31 December 2014.

Monthly meetings

Once again we have had an interesting and varied number of speakers who gave their time and expertise to present papers at our monthly Sunday meetings. In 2014 these were: Dr Stefan Petrow who presented an interesting paper on the origins of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Jenny Gill who gave an amusing talk on the early hospitals of Launceston; the Committee members and John Dent who presented the Heritage Festival event *Monuments and Monkeys: A walk in historic City Park*; Dr Christine Ball who gave the Pugh Day lecture on the life and times of Joseph T Clover; Dr Roger Kellaway who spoke on the discovery of gold in the Third Basin; and Dr Hamish Maxwell-Stewart who gave us an insight into the effects of imprisonment on nineteenth-century families.

In September we held a History Seminar in conjunction with the Oral History Association with four speakers: Peter Henning spoke on World War Two nurses; Anne Green presented a paper on the origins of St Giles; Dr Tom Gunn told us stories of people who spent time at St Giles; and Alis Wood entertained us with stories and audio segments of Jessie Luckman. In October Dr Nicholas Clements presented a paper on the Black War. The final speaker for the year was Steve Radford on the history of telecommunications. The Christmas meeting included a mini book fair with Historical Society members selling their books and the launch of *Around the Block*.

We appreciate the generous support of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery for providing the meeting room for our monthly meetings and the helpful staff who attend to our every need.

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

In March 2014 Professor Philip Payton presented the 26th *The Examiner*-John West Memorial Lecture with the topic *From Launceston to Launceston – Perspectives on the Cornish in Australia*. More than 250 people attended the lecture at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre at the University of Tasmania. Philip was introduced by Martin Gilmour, Editor of *The Examiner*; while Professor Michael Bennett offered a vote of thanks.

This year the John West lecturer will be the barrister and human rights advocate Julian Burnside AO QC – speaking on *We can do much better* – at the Albert Hall on Friday 13 March 2015.

We are grateful for *The Examiner's* ongoing sponsorship of this prestigious event and for the University for providing its lecture theatre free of charge.

Excursion

In October Robert Smith hosted a busload of members and friends who enjoyed a history tour via Myrtle Park and the Sideling to St Paul's Church and cemetery at Springfield. Thank you to the Friends of St Paul's for a scrumptious lunch at the Springfield Hall; and to Terese Binns who once again drove the Veterans and Community Bus.

Archaeology Group

There have been ongoing discussions with an international archaeologist who is interested in the possibility of undertaking an excavation of the Kerry Lodge Probation Station site; but at this stage nothing is definite.

History Prize

The 2014 Launceston Historical Society History Prize for primary school students received 79 individual entries and one class project. The three participating schools were: Riverside and Mowbray Heights Primary Schools and St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School. The judges awarded 15 prizes of book vouchers from Fuller's Bookshop. Thank you to Carol Fuller for organising the History Prize with assistance from Georgia Fountoulaki and Jenny Gill. Gus Green presented a copy of his book *What a Racket!* to grade three student Jess Leyden who wrote about the tennis racquet exhibition at the PCYC. Thanks also to Mayor Albert van Zetten who presented the prizes and certificates at the Town Hall on 20 November.

The Senior Secondary Ratcliff Prize for History, which was \$100 and a copy of Dr Nic Haygarth's book *The Wild Ride*, was awarded to six students: Julia Hoffner, Launceston College; Jamie Sands, Newstead College; Louise Barnett, Scotch Oakburn College; Alannah Gall, Launceston Church Grammar School; Callan Robinson, St Patrick's College; and Lara Cooper, the Launceston Christian School.

The annual \$400 Launceston Historical Society - Dr Marita Bardenhagen History Prize was awarded to first-year university student Cassandra Berry.

Marita Bardenhagen Memorial Award for Local History

Our Society is a sponsor of the Marita Bardenhagen Memorial Award for Local History. The inaugural joint winners were our member Nic Haygarth for *The Norfolk Plains* and Lorraine Dooley for *Building on firm foundations*.

Executive Committee

The extent of events and activities conducted by the Historical Society would not be possible without the many hours of work performed by a dedicated team of volunteers. Thank you to the other members of the Executive Committee who have helped to make this Society what it is today.

In February 2014 the following committee members were elected: Marion Sargent, President; Catherine Pearce, Vice-president and Minute Secretary; Leonie Prevost, Treasurer; and Prue McCausland, Correspondence Secretary.

The other committee members were: Georgia Fountoulaki; Gus Green, who was also the Heritage Representative for the Launceston City Council; Robyn Jones; Steve Jones, Sue McClarron; Terry Neal and Anne Neale. Gus is standing down from the Committee after five years. Thank you Gus for your valuable contributions. Sue McClarron has stepped into the role of our Heritage Representative with the LCC.

Publications

As part of our 25th anniversary celebration, we reprinted *History in Our Streets* by John and Don Morris. The well-attended launch was held in conjunction with the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust at the Punchbowl Christian Centre on 28 March 2014.

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 Teddy Sheean segment on 12 March 2014. Marion Sargent, Catherine Pearce, Sue McClarron and Terry Neal helped out on the Society's stall at the Community Day at QVMAG at Inveresk on 15 March. Terese Binns attended dressed as a World War One nurse. The Launceston episode of *Tony Robinson's Tour of Duty* is scheduled to be broadcast on the Foxtel History channel on Tuesday 5 May 2015 at 7.30pm.

I thank Peter Gutwein's office staff for printing the *Newsletter*, *Annual Report* and notices free of charge.

Awards

I wish to formally congratulate two of our members who received Australia Day honours for their service to the community. Paul Richards was awarded the Australia Medal and Roger Valentine OAM was awarded the Australia Day Citizen Award.

Conclusion

Once again, thank you to my dedicated Committee whose expertise and energy ensures that this Society functions well. And thank you also to those regular members and guests who faithfully support the Society's activities by attending our meetings, lectures and excursions.

I dedicate this report to my mother Barbara Briggs who sadly passed away last August. She was my meticulous proof-reader; I have learnt so much from her knowledge and guidance.

We can all look forward to another stimulating year in 2015.

Marion Sargent
President 2014