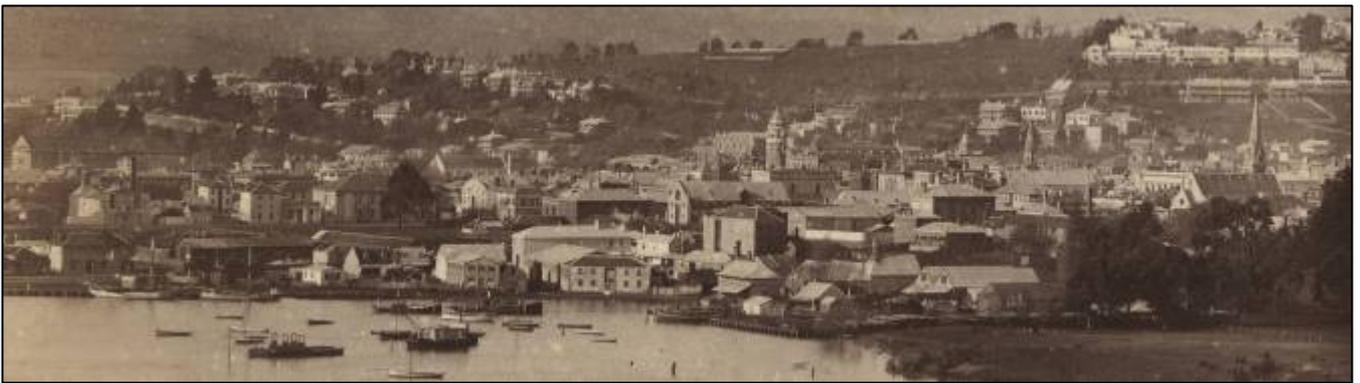


Launceston Historical Society Inc.

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

Annual Report for year ending December 2013



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 16 February 2014**

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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 the 31 December 2013. Firstly, I wish to pay tribute to Don Barker, a committee member, who sadly passed away on 23rd September last year.

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 2013 these were: Dr Frank Madill who enthralled us with the exploits of Max Sanders DFC; Phoebe Kelloway spoke on the Launceston textile workers' strike of 1932; our Heritage Festival walk *From Albert to Victoria* along Cameron Street and the Pugh Day lecture by Dr John Paull on Dr William Russ Pugh's walk from Hobart to Launceston. Julianne Richards presented a talk on War Service Homes in Newstead; Dr Alison Alexander gave an intriguing insight into Lady Jane Franklin; and Rohan Wilson explained how he is fictionalizing the 1874 Railway Riots. For our 25th anniversary Dr Eric Ratcliff entertained us with a talk on architect Alexander North and his church spires. The final speaker for the year was Stephen Dando-Collins who captivated us with the story of Sir Henry Parkes.

We appreciate the generous support of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery for providing this room for our monthly meetings; the Friends' Lounge for our committee meetings; and the helpful staff who attend to our every need.

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

In March 2013 Professor Lucy Frost spoke on *The children of mothers in the convict system of Van Diemen's Land*. Approximately 250 people attended the lecture at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre at the University of Tasmania. Lucy was introduced by Martin Gilmour, Editor of *The Examiner*, while Jon Addison offered a vote of thanks.

This year the John West lecturer will be Professor Philip Payton – speaking on *From Launceston to Launceston – perspectives on the Cornish in Australia* – at UTAS on Friday 14 March 2014.

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 a busload of members enjoyed an educational history tour of Forth. Thank you to the Forth Valley History Group for a wonderful day out; and to Terese Binns who drove the Veterans and Community Bus.

Archaeology Group

The archaeology group organised two tours of the CH Smith archaeological dig for members. It was most interesting, showing some of the earliest remains of buildings in Launceston besides a number of fascinating artefacts. 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 2013 Launceston Historical Society History Prize focussed on various topics related to the National History Curriculum. Fifty-six students from grades 4 to 6 submitted entries. The three participating schools were: Riverside and Mowbray Heights Primary Schools and Scotch Oakburn Junior School. The judges awarded eleven prizes of book vouchers from Fuller's Bookshop. Thank you to Carol Fuller for organising the History Prize with assistance from Robyn Jones and Jenny Gill. Thanks also to Mayor Albert van Zetten who presented the prizes at the Town Hall on 20 November.

The Senior Secondary Ratcliff Prize for History, worth \$100.00, was awarded to six students from the following schools: Launceston College, Emma Brown; Newstead College, Gabriëlle Zuiddam; Scotch Oakburn College, Sarah Sheehan; Launceston Church Grammar School, Fergus Brown; St Patrick's College, Jack Gardner; and the Launceston Christian School, Lara Cooper.

The annual \$400.00 Launceston Historical Society - Dr Marita Bardenhagen History Prize was awarded to university student Danielle McCarthy in March 2013.

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 2013 the following committee members were elected: Marion Sargent president; Catherine Pearce vice-president and minute secretary; Leonie Prevost treasurer; and Robyn Jones correspondence secretary.

The other committee members were: Jon Addison; Dianne Cassidy; Georgia Fountoulaki; Gus Green, who is also the heritage representative for the Launceston City Council; Sue McClarron; Don Barker who sadly passed away in September; and Nick Clements and Joan Jacks who resigned shortly after the AGM. Terry Neal joined us in July.

Publications

February 2013 saw the most successful publication and launch of *Way Back When*. Nearly all of the 500 copies printed have been sold. Thank you to Anne Bartlett, Jenny Gill, John Dent, Lorraine Wootton and Peter Cox for all the hard work in writing stories, encouraging others to

write stories, indexing, obtaining illustrations, editing, dealing with the publisher, arranging the launch, distribution and sale of the books. Your many years of labour have produced a book of which we all can be proud.

As part of our 25th anniversary celebration *History in Our Streets* by John and Don Morris has been re-printed. A pre-order form is available. The launch will be held in conjunction with the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust.

Thank you to all members who took part in *Tony Robinson's Time Walks: Launceston* in April 2013. The Society is noted in the credits of this most interesting and enjoyable film focussing on our history. We have another opportunity to take part in Tony's forthcoming program, *A Century of War*, to be filmed in March 2014.

I thank Brian Wightman's office staff for printing the *Newsletter* free of charge.

Conclusion

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

The Launceston Historical Society's last 25 years have taken us on an amazing journey. We all can look forward to another educational, entertaining and erudite year in 2014, and well beyond.

Marion Sargent

President 2013