



Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 152

February 2016

ISSN 1036-7950

PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Bringing together people since 1988 with an interest in history

A rogue and vagabond

The last meeting for 2015 was held at the QVMAG on 15 November. Anne Neale gave an entertaining talk on the rogue and vagabond Henry Edwin Bridges (1820-1892). He led an eventful life as a builder, architect, civil engineer, swindler and bankrupt in England, Belgium and, from 1854 Australia. He moved frequently when he was no longer welcome in towns and cities across Victoria, NSW, Queensland and Tasmania. By 1858 he was in Hobart under the name of Horace Bennett. After some shady dealings he moved to Launceston where he entered into a brief partnership with architect Peter Mills. But in 1859 Bennett fled to Victoria. So it is curious why his design and specifications for the new Launceston Town Hall were accepted. Peter Mills was the clerk of works and when design faults in the roof were revealed, he made it clear that he had not designed it. In 1864 Bennett left Launceston.



Dr Anne Neale, the final speaker for 2015.



Mayor Albert van Zetten and President Marion Sargent.

History Prizes

Sixty-one entries were received from Riverside and Mowbray Heights Primary Schools and St Thomas More's Catholic School for the LHS Primary School History Prize for 2015. Each entrant received a certificate, and seventeen book vouchers from Volume 2 were awarded to those judged best by Carol Fuller and Georgia Fountoulaki. The award ceremony was held at the Town Hall on 26 November. President Marion Sargent was MC with the Mayor Albert van Zetten handing out the prizes. Thank you to Carol for organising the award and Jenny Gill for printing the certificates.

The Senior Secondary Ratcliff History Prize was awarded to six students: one each from Launceston College, Newstead College, Scotch Oakburn College, Launceston Church Grammar School, St Patrick's College and the Launceston Christian School. Each award of \$200 is given to a student selected by the school.

The annual \$500 Launceston Historical Society – Dr Marita Bardenhagen History Prize was shared between two University of Tasmania students Logan Krushka and Robert Evans.

Primary History Prize list 2015

GRADE 3:

Highly Commended

Claire Lipski How is Franklin House connected to National Trust Tasmania?
Declan Rae Why is Woolmers Estate still important today?

First Prize

Zali Towns Do Aborigines have a history in Launceston?

GRADE 4:

Special Mention for good use of original sources

Jess Layden When the Circus came to town

Special Mention for concise answers to historical questions

Callum West Why did the European people travel?

Special Mention for presenting historical information in varied ways

Joseph Scharapow What is the history of St Thomas More's school?

Highly Recommended

Emma Spanos Why is the Old Umbrella Shop a significant building in Launceston?
Isabella Johns What was life like in the Launceston Female Factory?

First Prize

Grace Wood Are there any badgers on Badger's Beach?

GRADE 5:

Special Mention for presentation

Makirah Ford Did the punishment fit the crime?

Highly Commended

Esther Leng Besides ammunition, what else wounded men in WW1?
Olive Morris A comparison of the first and current Mayors of Launceston

First Prize

Tyree Marshall Why does the relationship between the early settlers in NSW and the Aboriginal people still have an effect on us today?

GRADE 6:

Special Mention for interesting historical debate

Jayden McHenry Is Ned a villain or a hero?

Special Mention for class effort and presentation of a series of posters

6 Carstens Riverside Primary

Highly Commended

Paige Probert Was Burke and Wills' expedition a failure?
Nandar Thant How did one bullet start WW1?

First Prize

Holly Garwood Why is Ballarat's history so important?

Devonport excursion

On Sunday 29 November a bus load of happy members joined our annual excursion to Devonport. We enjoyed morning tea at the House of Anvers Chocolate Factory at Latrobe, formerly the gracious home *Wyndarra*. A tour of the Bass Strait Maritime Centre in the former home of the Harbour Master was followed by lunch at the café there. Our final stop for the day was at the National Trust property *Home Hill*. It is a wonderful time capsule of the home of Tasmania's only Prime Minister Joseph Lyons and Dame Enid Lyons. A Devonshire tea at *Home Hill* completed a great gourmet day out. Thank you to Terese Binns who once again drove the Veterans and Community Bus.



The excursion group outside the House of Anvers, Latrobe.

Annual General Meeting + DVD

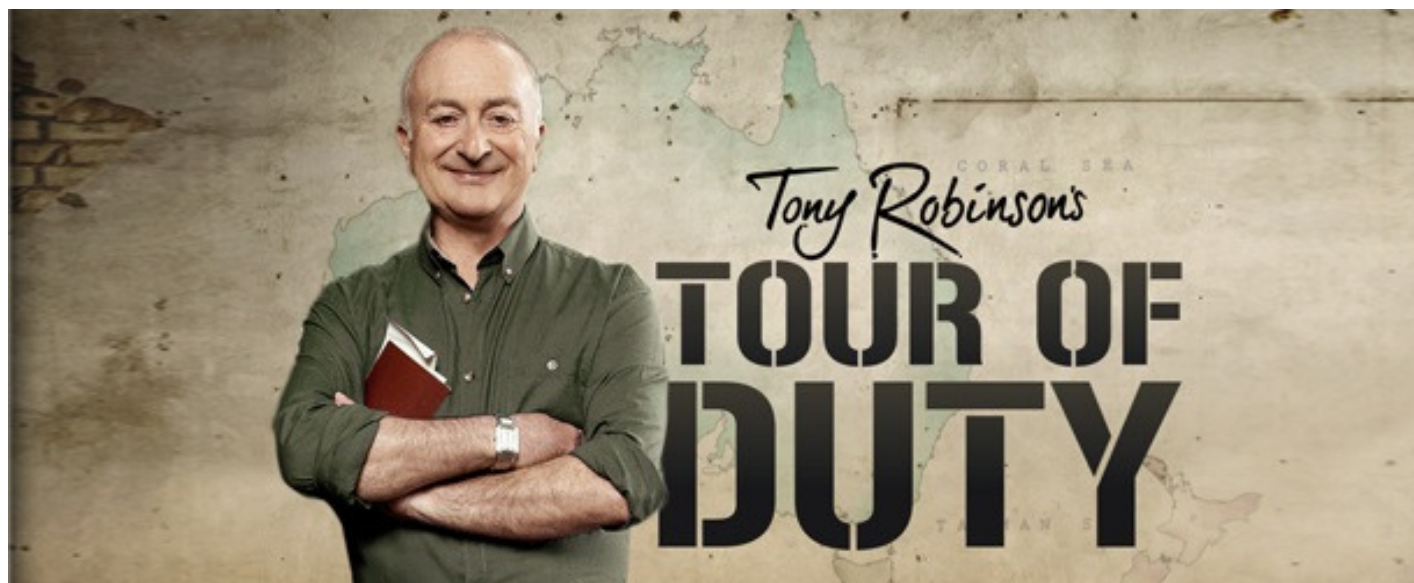
Sunday 21 February 2016 – 2.00pm at the Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk

The 2016 AGM will be held at 2.00pm. 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, **12 February 2015**. Now is the time to join the Committee to help your Society run its active and vibrant program of talks, the John West Lecture, history prizes and excursions to help promote history.

The AGM notification is available on our website or is enclosed with the printed Newsletter.

A PowerPoint show of the past year's activities will be shown before the AGM starts.

Tony Robinson's Tour of Duty: Launceston



After the short AGM we will be showing the DVD of Sir Tony Robinson's March 2014 visit to Launceston, Evandale and Legerwood. Members of the community took part in the filming of this series, focussing on a century of war. It includes the Tour of Duty roadshow at the QV Museum. Were you there? Did you make the cut? Everyone is welcome to come along and see the final result. Afternoon tea will be served.

Membership renewals

Annual subscriptions for the Launceston Historical Society were due on 31 December 2015.

A membership form is enclosed or 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 28th John West Memorial Lecture

Michelle Grattan AO

The Power of One

**Friday 18 March 2016 – 8.00pm at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre,
University of Tasmania, Newnham.**

Michelle Grattan AO is one of Australia's most respected and awarded political journalists. She has been a member of the Canberra parliamentary press gallery for more than 40 years, during which time she has covered all the most significant stories in Australian politics.

As a former editor of The Canberra Times, Michelle Grattan was also the first female editor of an Australian daily newspaper. She has been with the Australian Financial Review, The Sydney Morning Herald and Political Editor of The Age since 2004.

Michelle currently has a dual role with an academic position at the University of Canberra and as Associate Editor (Politics) and Chief Political Correspondent at The Conversation.

In her role at the University of Canberra, Michelle will be teaching, working on research projects in politics and political communication, as well as providing public commentary and strategic advice.

She is the author, co-author and editor of several books and was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2004 for her long and distinguished service to Australian journalism.



Source: <http://theconversation.com/profiles/michelle-grattan-20316>

Advance notice of LHS activities for 2016

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

- 17 April** **Craig Deayton**, *WWI Western Front topic* (Australian Heritage Week)
- 15 May** **John Dent**, *The Kerry Lodge Archaeology Project*
(National Trust Tasmanian Heritage Festival, 'Discovery and Rediscoveries')
- 19 June** **Pugh Day Lecture**
- 17 July** **Georgia Fountoulaki**, *Greek Culture: Tasmanian Connections*
- 21 August** **Susan Aykut**, *Turkish Baths in Launceston*
- 18 September** **Combined Seminar with Oral History Tasmania**
Christina Henri, *Engaging the convict legacy: art's role as a means of understanding*
Nicola Goc, *Migrant women*
Third speaker to be advised
- 16 October** **Marion Sargent**, *Amy Sargent: An Adventurous Nurse*
- 20 November** **Anne Neale**, *City Park Fountain*

Daily Telegraph, 28 October 1892, page 3

GHASTLY REMINISCE DISCOVERY OF A MANACLED SKELETON.

The sexton at the Church of England Burial Ground was employed on Wednesday afternoon in digging a grave, when, at 2ft from the surface, he discovered the shin bones of a man, each of which was encircled by a leg iron. Fragments of a pair of boots were attached to the bones of the feet, and the position of the limbs indicated that the skeleton was lying in a direction different from that in which bodies are usually placed in the ground. Care is generally taken that a corpse shall lie east and west, but in this instance the skeleton, or that portion of it disclosed by the grave digger, was lying north and south. The discovery was made in the westerly portion of the cemetery, probably in un-consecrated ground. No effort has, at present, been made to dig out the entire skeleton; but the irons and portion of the boots have been secured by the sexton, and the authorities may, perhaps, order the remainder to be dug up for the purpose of an investigation. Convicts were buried in various places of interment before the establishment of one common graveyard in the Dark Hollow, and the Church of England Cemetery may have been the chosen resting place of the one whose bones were disturbed yesterday; but how a man wearing log irons and boots ever came to be buried in 'God's Acre', where the dead are interred in sure and certain hope of a glorious resurrection, must always remain a matter for conjecture.

Just four months earlier James House was appointed as sexton at the Church of England Burial ground in Cypress Street. A meeting held in the vestry at the Holy Trinity Church, Cameron Street, selected Mr House from 148 applicants. The salary was £2 a week; a cottage was provided in the cemetery grounds.

Other items and events of interest

They Saw a Thylacine: the first show to be performed in the re-furbished Princess Theatre on Monday 4 April 2016 at 7.30pm. A one hour lyrical tale of adversity and survival created and performed by Justine Campbell and Sarah Hamilton. Launceston-born Sarah is the editor's niece! The play is touring nationally, including Hobart, Launceston and Burnie. Not to be missed!
<http://theatrenorth.com.au/they-saw-a-thylacine>

Duck Reach Historical Group: The acclaimed film *Death or Liberty* will be showing at the Queen Victoria Museum Inveresk Auditorium on Saturday, 27 February 2016. A stirring lyrical journey into the dramatic and heroic lives of the convict rebels exiled to the prison without walls; revered in their homelands their convict lives are an amazing untold story – until now. Three sessions: 10.30am green ticket; 12.30pm blue ticket; 2.30pm yellow ticket. Cost \$10.00 general public; \$8.00 Friends of the Museum. As seen at the BOFA Film Festival. Enquiries and bookings to Shane: mobile 0421 036 176 or email shane.duckreach@gmail.com See the Duck Reach website: www.duckreach.com.au.

Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk: *Faces of Launceston, the photography of Philip Kuruvita*. For the last 20 years, Tasmania's only Grand Master of Photography has been documenting the City of Launceston via portraits of its people. The 6th exhibition in the series celebrates another 100 people who are making a difference in the city. The exhibition runs until 28 February 2016.

Friends of the Library Book Fair: St Ailbe's Hall Saturday 5 March 2016. Thousands of second hand books at bargain prices.

Tamar Valley Writers Festival: Bringing together the cream of Australian literary thinking and the best of Tamar Valley food and wine. Entry to all literary sessions is free of charge. 18-20 March 2016 at Beaconsfield. www.tamarvalleywritersfestival.com.au

George Town & District Historical Society: 15 February 2016, at the Hillwood Hall; 21 March 2016, at the Pipers River Fire Station, **Peter Cox**, *Early ports of the Weymouth area*. Email: info@gtdhs.com.

Tasmanian Historical Research Association: Meetings take place in the Royal Society Room, Custom House, TMAG, Hobart, starting at 8.00pm: 9 February 2016, **Maureen Martin Ferris**, *The life and times of Sarah Mitchell of Lisdillon*; 8 March 2016, **Michael Hess**, *The history of Birchall's Bookshop*.

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
Publicity Officer	Terry Neal	0414 199 276 6343 7940

Postal address: PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Email: launcestonhistory@gmail.com Website: www.launcestonhistory.org.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/launcestonhistory>

Archaeology Group: Email enquiries to John Dent: john.dent@pda.com.au.

Deadline

Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 April 2016** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.