



Launceston Historical Society Inc.

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

Annual Report for year ending 31 December 2015



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 21 February 2016**

PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Email: launcestonhistory@gmail.com

Webpage: www.launcestonhistory.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/launcestonhistory

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 2015.

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



**Mark Baker, Editor of *The Examiner*, lecturer Julian Burnside and President Marion Sargent.
Photo courtesy of *The Examiner*.**

In March 2015 Julian Burnside presented the 27th *The Examiner*-John West Memorial Lecture with the topic *We can do much better*. We were delighted that approximately 700 people attended the lecture at the Albert Hall. President Marion Sargent was the master of ceremonies, Professor David Rich gave a brief address on the 125th anniversary of the University of Tasmania, Mr Burnside was introduced by Mark Baker, Editor of *The Examiner*, while LHS Secretary Prue McCausland offered a vote of thanks.

This year the John West Memorial lecturer will be political journalist Michelle Grattan AO – speaking on *The Power of One* – at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania at Newnham on Friday 18 March 2016 at 8.00pm.

We are grateful for sponsorship and support of *The Examiner* and the University for this prestigious event.

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 2015 these were: Dr Tom Dunning who presented the case for a new history of Launceston; Julian Burgess who gave an insight into the experiences of an ambulance man during World War One; Anne Neale who presented the Heritage Festival event of an illustrated virtual walk from Prince's Square to the War Memorial; Dr Rod Westhorpe who gave the Pugh Day lecture on the development of anaesthetics; and Dr John Paull who spoke on the travels of 'Count' Strzelecki.

In August we watched a DVD compiled by the late John Shepherd on Max Oldaker's tourist walk through central Launceston. Marion Sargent gave a talk on some of the old cemeteries of

Launceston; and John Watts spoke about the outer leads of the Tamar River. The final speaker for the year was Anne Neale who entertained us with stories of the rogue and vagabond Henry Bridges (alias Horace Bennett). The Christmas meeting included a mini book fair with Historical Society members selling their books.

We appreciate the generous support of the Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk, for providing the meeting room for our monthly meetings. And thank you also to Haben who capably looked after our audio visual needs.

Spring Excursion

In November a busload of members enjoyed a history tour to the House of Anvers Chocolate Factory at Latrobe, and the Bass Strait Maritime Centre and Home Hill at Devonport. Thank you to Terese Binns who once again drove the Veterans and Community Bus.



The excursion group outside the House of Anvers, Latrobe.

Archaeology Group

John Dent arranged a site visit to the archaeology dig at the Kerry Lodge Probation Station on 2 April 2015. Members could observe the archaeological team at work, led by Eleanor Cassela and Angie McGowan.

History Prize

The 2015 Launceston Historical Society History Prize for primary school students received 61 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 18 prizes of book vouchers from Volume2 Bookshop. Thank you to Carol Fuller for

organising the History Prize with assistance from Georgia Fountoulaki and Jenny Gill. Thanks also to Mayor Albert van Zetten who presented the prizes and certificates at the Town Hall on Thursday 26 November.

The Senior Secondary Ratcliff Prize for History of \$200 was awarded to six students: Sophie Bodell, Launceston College; Chelsey Grandfield, Newstead College; Abigael Stubbs, Scotch Oakburn College; Tristan Jamson, Launceston Church Grammar School; Georgia Strickland, St Patrick's College; and Faith Stellmaker, the Launceston Christian School.

The annual \$500 Launceston Historical Society - Dr Marita Bardenhagen History Prize was shared by two first-year university students Logan Krushka and Robert Evans.

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 2015 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; Robyn Jones; Steve Jones; Sue McClarron, our Heritage Representative with the City of Launceston; Terry Neal; Anne Neale and Andrew Woodgate. Thank you to Anne and Andrew who are standing down from the Committee.

Membership

The Historical Society had 136 financial members at the end of 2015. This included 21 new members who joined throughout the year.

Publications

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

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.

We can all look forward to another year of interesting and inspiring talks and activities in 2016.

Marion Sargent
President 2015