



Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 155

October 2016

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Bringing together people since 1988 with an interest in history

Mareeno Lucas

On 17 July 2016 about sixty people enjoyed Georgia Fountoulaki's talk on the Lekatsas brothers from the Greek island of Ithaca. They travelled to Australia after hearing stories from their uncle on the "New El Dorado" that was to be found there. Marrenos, a builder, joined his brother Antonius in Melbourne in 1884, went to New Zealand in 1899 and to Hobart in 1907. He made a lasting contribution to the entertainment of Tasmanians. Known as Mareeno Lucas, he operated theatres in Hobart before moving to Launceston in 1911. In that city he built the Princess and Majestic theatres. Penniless when he arrived in Australia, he died a wealthy man in Melbourne in 1931.



Jill Cassidy, Georgia Fountoulaki and Catherine Pearce.



Turkish Baths

Dr Susan Aykut enthralled a packed audience on 21 August with her illustrated lecture on an unusual historic phenomenon – the Victorian Turkish Bath. Launceston boasted not one, but three of these exotic bathing facilities. The first, opened in Elizabeth Street in 1862, was the third in Australia. Launceston, having just installed Australia's first underground sewerage system, was again at the forefront of cleanliness! The baths were not just an invention of the lunatic fringe. Prominent citizens including the Rev. RK Ewing advocated their use to promote health and wellbeing. Launceston's second bath was run by the eccentric Edward Ackerman at the corner of Cameron and Charles streets

and the third by the Launceston Corporation as part of its Victoria Baths complex in Paterson Street. Anyone wishing to know more is referred to Susan's fascinating article in the newly-published book, *The Fabric of Launceston: a collaborative community history*, chapter 6.

By Catherine Pearce



Brad Williams, Jill Cassidy and Margaretta Pos at the seminar.

History Seminar

The history seminar held on Sunday 18 September in conjunction with Oral History Tasmania was a resounding success.

Brad Williams gave an illustrated talk on the findings of an archaeological dig of the old Launceston Gaol, now Launceston College.

Jill Cassidy spoke on how oral history brings our past to life. Excerpts of interviews illustrated this admirably.

Margaretta Pos told us how she wrote the book on her three times great grandmother Elizabeth Fenton and her journeys in India and Tasmania.

October Talk

Marion Sargent: *Amy Sargent: An Adventurous Nurse.*

Sunday 16 October 2016 – 2.00pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk

Abstract: The life of Amy Ruth Sargent will be outlined in this presentation by her great-niece. Amy was a staff nurse for the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve during the First World War. Her initial nursing training was at the Launceston Homeopathic Hospital, followed by a course in midwifery and gynaecology at the Women's Hospital in Melbourne. She travelled to England in 1911. On her return to Australia she nursed in Sydney. In December 1915 she enlisted in the QAIMNSR and left from Wynyard to join the troopship which took her to Egypt. Amy was soon on her way to England and later, Stationary Hospitals and Casualty Clearing Stations in France. She finally returned to Wynyard in June 1919. For 21 years, from March 1923, Amy was the School Nurse on the North-West coast. She sadly died at the Lachlan Park Hospital, New Norfolk in 1950.

Biography: Marion Sargent was originally from the North-West Coast, but since 1991 has lived in Launceston. She has a Bachelor of Arts majoring in History and Geography from TSIT, and a Graduate Diploma in Librarianship from the University of Tasmania. Now retired, Marion was a librarian with the State Library of Tasmania for 26 years. She is President of the Launceston Historical Society and editor of the Society's *Newsletter*. A keen cyclist, she conducts occasional history rides.

November Talk

Anne Neale: *The City Park Fountain: its origins uncovered, symbolism decoded, and significance established.*

Sunday 20 November 2016 – 2.00pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk

Abstract: The terracotta fountain now located, and somewhat neglected, in the 'Senses Garden' of City Park, is of international significance. First erected near the conservatory in 1861, the fountain is remarkable for its origins and connections with Scotland and Ireland; with Classical and Christian symbolism; and with esoteric design theory and pragmatic industrial production. It is one of the oldest surviving public fountains in Australia, and a previously unknown work by a famous Scottish architect.

Biography: Dr Anne Neale is a cultural historian and was Coordinator of History & Theory in the School of Architecture & Design at UTAS before her retirement. Her overlapping interests in 19th century architecture, gardens and art are fundamental in this work.

Enjoy a Christmas afternoon tea after the talk.

Members' Column

New members:

The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Edwina Brown, Aneesh Gokhale and Jordana Lory.

Annual excursion to Chudleigh, Mole Creek and Deloraine:

This year's excursion is heading to Chudleigh, Mole Creek and Deloraine on Friday 18 November.

We were hoping to visit Marakoopa Cave, but due to extensive damage from the June floods, this is not possible. The proposed itinerary is to stop at Chudleigh for morning tea, visit the historic R. Stephens Tasmanian Honey factory, see the 'Boy' Miles Liena Mountain Hut, lunch at the Mole Creek Hotel, visit the Deloraine Folk Museum and have afternoon tea at the Deloraine Deli.

If you would like to join us please fill in the form on page 5 of this Newsletter.



The Fabric of Launceston

The new collaborative community history of Launceston was launched at the ARtrium Gallery at the LGH on 6 August 2016. Many LHS members have contributed stories. We also provided a loan to enable the book to be printed. Half of the 300 copies were sold in the first few days after the launch. Sue McClarron took this picture of the editors Paul Richards, Barbara Valentine and Tom Dunning at the launch of the book.

Advance notice of LHS activities for 2017

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

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| 19 February | AGM + Peter Richardson |
| 16 March | Saul Eslake , John West Memorial Lecture
Thursday, 8.00pm at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Lecture Theatre, UTAS, Newnham |
| 9 April | Bradley Wood , <i>Digging in a Flanders Field</i> (Australian Heritage Week) |
| 21 May | LHS Committee – Royal Park Walk |
| 18 June | Professor Milton Cohen , Pugh Day Lecture |
| 16 July | Jenny Gill , <i>The controversial clock of St John's Anglican Church</i> |
| 20 August | Louise Zarmati , <i>Opportunities for teaching Australian history and archaeology in the new Australian Curriculum</i> |
| 17 September | Guy Burns & Eric Sargent , <i>Clytie & Me</i> |
| 15 October | Barbara Hatley , <i>History of amateur theatre groups in Launceston</i> |
| 19 November | Christina Henri , <i>Engaging the convict legacy: art's role as a means of understanding</i> |

A brief history of Chudleigh

Prior to European settlement Chudleigh was part of the lands of the Pallitorre Aboriginal tribe. Their range included Deloraine, east of Chudleigh, and the Gog mountain range to the north-west where they mined ochre in the Toolumbunner ochre pits.



Restored VDL grain store.

During the early 1820s the Van Diemen's Land Company created a track or stock route from Deloraine to Emu Bay (now Burnie) that ran via Chudleigh and Mole Creek. The route enabled them to move livestock from the west of Tasmania, to the population centres further east. The company built facilities, including a store, in Chudleigh. Europeans settled the area west of Deloraine from the early 1800s, and cattle were being grazed in the Chudleigh area from as early as 1823. John Badcock Gardiner, who probably named Chudleigh after the village with the same name in Devon, England, was granted 850 acres (340 ha) in the area after arriving in Tasmania in 1829 with his family. Land in the district granted to Lieutenant Travers Hartley Vaughan in 1830 was later sold to Henry Reed. The property, which had been known as *Native Hut Corner*, was renamed *Wesley Dale*.

By 1831 a lime burning industry had been established. The town of Chudleigh was surveyed and marked into town blocks, many of them 10 acres (4.0 ha). The town was laid out to hold a population of 5,000, as it was intended to be a railway junction on a line from Launceston to North-West Tasmania. Later, the idea of such a large settlement was abandoned. Dan Picket, an ex-convict who had been granted a ticket of leave, built the first hotel, the two-storey *Chudleigh Inn*, around 1850. The building was later reduced to a single storey. A police watch house was completed c.1860. By 1862 an extensive system of caves had been discovered in the area, attracting visitors.

In the 1860s a 30 by 11 foot (9.1 by 3.4 m) single-room school building was constructed. The school opened 1 July 1864 with 14 pupils and a single teacher, though it apparently closed sometime after and reopened 28 January 1883 with a larger class of 34 pupils. In 1884 a new building, and teacher's residence, was completed at a cost of £1,531. The new school was on the road to Mole Creek near the bridge over Lobster Rivulet, and had around 26–27 students. The school suffered regular flooding of the building, access roads and paths. It was moved in the 1930s next to the Methodist chapel in Sorell Street. The school was extended in 1936 and remained in operation until it was closed in 1965. Students then travelled to the school at Mole Creek.



Chudleigh School TAHO LPIC 147-2-182.

The township of Chudleigh was formally declared in 1866. It continued to expand and by 1883 also had a post and telegraph office, two stores, two churches, and over a dozen houses. The Chudleigh Agricultural and Horticultural Society has run the show annually since 1889, except for breaks from 1914–28 and 1939–45 due to the two World Wars. The show has been held on various grounds; the present one was purchased in 1932.

Chudleigh's town hall was opened during a public event on 11 April 1895. It was funded by public subscription and constructed by local builders Davis Brothers on donated land. Measuring 46 by 26 feet (14.0 by 7.9 m), it was a weather board building set on stone foundations, with a corrugated iron roof. There was a near tragedy in the hall in late 1922 when a generator caught fire while the hall was being used by 300 people. The inwards opening doors and lack of a fire door were cited as significant problems. Chudleigh had a post office from 1865. Around 1899 it was moved to a new building though it has since been closed and the building sold as a private home. Chudleigh had a registered maternity hospital in the early 20th century. For some time the town had an Australian Rules football club. It closed in the 1930s, re-formed in 1939, then finally closed in the 1980s. Telegraph communication followed construction of the railway line in the late 19th century. The first telephones were installed in Chudleigh homes in the 1930s and mains electricity in the 1940s.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chudleigh,_Tasmania#History (edited, not verified)

Chudleigh – Mole Creek – Deloraine Excursion

Friday 18 November 2016

The Launceston Historical Society's Spring Excursion

- 9.30 am Veterans and Community Bus departs from the Harry Abbott Scout Hall, St George's Square, East Launceston. Travel to Chudleigh for our first stop.
- 10.30 am Arrive at **Chudleigh**. Morning snack at own expense at the Melita Honey Farm – try honey ice cream or nougat. www.melitahoneyfarm.com.au/our-retail-store-museum
Maybe visit the Chudleigh General Store.
- 11.30 am Arrive at R. Stephens Honey Factory, **Mole Creek**. Shirley Stephens will talk to us about the history of the honey farm. There will be time to stock up on honey too.
<http://www.leatherwoodhoney.com.au>
- Visit the 'Boy' Miles Liena Hut in the main street of Mole Creek.
<http://molecreek.info/mole-creek-chudleigh/mole-creek/mountain-huts/>
- 12.30 pm Lunch at the **Mole Creek Hotel**. Choose from the menu at your own expense. Have a look at the Tasmanian Tiger memorabilia in the Tassie Tiger Bar.
<http://www.molecreekhotel.com.au>
- 1.45 pm Depart for **Deloraine**.
- 2.15 pm Enjoy a visit to the **Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre**. See the Yarns Artwork in Silk at 2.30 pm then wander around the Folk Museum and Pioneer Walk.
<http://www.yarnsartworkinsilk.com>
- 3.30 pm Devonshire tea across the road at Deloraine Deli is included in the tour price.
- 4.15 pm Depart Deloraine.
- 5.00 pm Proposed arrival back at St George's Square.

Please fill out and return the slip below with **\$25.00 per person** to: The Treasurer, Launceston Historical Society, PO Box 1296, Launceston, TAS 7250, or hand in at the meeting on Sunday 16 October. Enquiries to Leonie Prevost: reliprevost@bigpond.com or Marion Sargent: marionsargent@bigpond.com, phone 6331 4890.

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Chudleigh – Mole Creek Excursion, Friday 18 November 2016	Return to:
Name.....	LHS Inc.
Address.....	PO Box 1296
Phone..... Mobile.....	LAUNCESTON TAS 7250
Email.....	\$25.00 per person
Dietary requirements.....	

Other items and events of interest

Oral History Session at Launceston LINC: Oral history is the recording of memories of people's unique life experiences. Through oral history the past comes alive!

On Tuesday 11 October, noted Oral Historian Jill Cassidy will present a free introduction to oral history session at the Launceston LINC, Civic Square, from 10.30 – 11.30am.

Find out how to get started on recording your own or a family member's life story.

To book please call 6777 2446, or use this link to register on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/oral-history-an-introduction-launceston-linc-tickets-27672408920>

New Book: *The men who made the celebrated chairs: Windsor-chair making in Tasmania* by Denis Lake. The Peddle chair touched the lives of many Tasmanians. This book tells how George Peddle and Harry Hearn brought the traditional craft of Windsor-chair making to the colony of Tasmania. Denis has been a professional restorer for 40 years and is a member of our Society.

Woolmers Estate Festival of Roses: Sunday, 13 November 2016, 9am to 4pm. \$10 entry. Thousands of roses to view, numerous stalls, food and wine, vintage cars and farm machinery, art exhibition, music and special guests.

LGH Historical Committee Seminar: *The impact of the Great War on surgery, anaesthesia and nursing: The Western Front 1916-1918.* Sunday, 27 November 2016, LGH Lecture Theatre level 2, 2 to 4pm. Presenters are: Prof Berni Einoder – orthopaedic surgery; Dr Colin Childers – anaesthesia; Ms Deanna Ellis – Nurses on the Western Front; Dr Dan Huon – medical evacuation.

George Town & District Historical Society: Meeting to be at The Grove, Cimitiere Street, George Town, 17 October 2016, **Wendy McLennan**, *Journeys to Antarctica & Macquarie Island.* To be held at the Bass & Flinders Centre, 21 November 2016, *"In their own words": the next instalment, from the beginning to the end of George Town as the 'Chief Settlement' in Van Diemen's Land.* Email: info@qtdhs.com.

Tasmanian Historical Research Association: Meetings take place in the Royal Society Room, Custom House, TMAG, Hobart, starting at 8.00pm: 8 Nov 2016, **Stefan Petrow**, *The Fighting Fortieth: Experiences of Tasmania's Own Battalion in World War One*; 13 December 2016, **Hamish Maxwell-Stewart**, *Convict Bank Accounts.* Email: info@thra.org.au.

Launceston Historical Society

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Deadline

Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 Feb 2017** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.