



Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 161

February 2018

ISSN 1036-7950

PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Bringing together people with an interest in history

Annual General Meeting + John Dent

Sunday 18 February 2018 – 2pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk

Welcome to another year of history! **The 2018 AGM** will begin at 2pm. 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, **9 February 2018**. We need one more committee member to run your Society's active and vibrant program of talks, the John West Memorial Lecture, history prizes and excursions to help promote history.

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

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

Don't forget to bring your LHS re-usable cup or buy one on the day. They are \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members.

John Dent: Kings Meadows Convict Road Station

Unlike most early convict sites there is a detailed plan of the Kings Meadows Road Station in the Tasmanian Archives Office. It is dated June 1838 and shows the detail of the layout of the buildings and their uses and even notes the building materials. It was used to house convicts, including the Launceston Chain Gang, who were used on road and other construction projects in the area. Apart from the plan's title "Kings Meadows", the name A Best and a couple of fence lines there is nothing on the plan to identify its location. The mystery of where it is has intrigued many people for a long time.

Using historical records, newspapers, survey plans and surveying analysis John Dent believes he has now found where the KMRS was originally located, 180 years after the plan was created. The talk will outline the history of the Evandale to Launceston water scheme which was the project that the KMRS was built to support, as well as the court case that was triggered by its erection. The evidence used to deduce its location and exactly where it was situated will be revealed.

John Dent OAM is a registered land surveyor with an interest in the early history of Launceston. He is also a founding member of the Launceston Historical Society and a past secretary as well as president of the West Tamar Historical Society. He is also the chair of the LHS archaeology group.

Membership Renewals

Annual subscriptions for the Launceston Historical Society were due on 31 December 2017.

A [Membership Form](#) is enclosed or can be accessed on the website. Payments can be made by cash, cheque or to the Society's bank account BSB 067 003 A/C No. 2804 8638. Please return the form to the Treasurer, Leonie Prevost, at the next meeting, or post to:

Treasurer, Launceston Historical Society, PO Box 1296, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

The 30th John West Memorial Lecture

Professor Mark McKenna

BEYOND THE CROWN: HISTORY AND AUSTRALIA'S REPUBLICAN FUTURE

Friday 16 March 2018 – 8pm

Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania, Newnham.

An award-winning author and Professor of History



Biography: Mark McKenna is one of Australia's leading historians. Professor of Australian History at the University of Sydney, he is the author of several prize-winning books, including *Looking for Blackfellas' Point: an Australian History of Place*, which won the Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-Fiction and Book of the Year in the 2003 NSW Premier's Literary Awards.

Seven years in the making, his biography of Manning Clark won five national awards, including the 2012 Non-Fiction Prime Minister's Literary Award, while his latest book *From The Edge: Australia's Lost Histories* won the 2017 NSW Premier's Australian History Prize. His essays and articles have been widely published in Australia and overseas.

Abstract:

Within the next decade Australia has the opportunity to finally achieve a meaningful constitutional settlement with Indigenous Australians, become a republic, and perhaps, in the process, re-define the way we see ourselves and the way the country is seen by others. If these changes are to have any realistic and meaningful prospect of success, we need to articulate a more cohesive and unified vision. We also need to understand that the republic is no longer about 'breaking away from Britain'. In the early 21st century, republicans can't rely on the language of the 1960s if they wish to achieve just and meaningful change.

In this lecture, Mark McKenna looks at the future prospect of an Australian republic in light of the history of Australia's relationship with the British monarchy and the history of Indigenous Australia. An Australian republic, he suggests, is not about 'growing up' but something much deeper.





Christina Henri with a bonnet.

Roses from the Heart

Christina Henri delivered an inspiring talk on her *Roses from the Heart* Project on 19 November 2017. Until 2003 Christina knew nothing about the female convicts who were transported to Australia from 1788 to 1853. A visit to the Cascade Female Factory as part of her Fine Arts degree brought to her attention the plight of the thousands of women who were torn from their homes and families and sent to the penal colonies for sometimes trifling offences.

Using Christening bonnets as a symbol of grief, her project began with an exhibition at Narryna, Battery Point. This developed into women's bonnets being sent to hundreds, then thousands, of people to embellish with the names of women convicts, the transport ships and dates of arrival. Christina has held exhibitions in numerous places in Australia, the UK and Ireland.

Cherish the Children is another project where shirts donated by men are made into bonnets. The Mayor of Derry, the Lord Mayor of Dublin and former Sydney Swans footballer Adam Goodes are among the donors.

Christmas cake and bubbly were enjoyed at our last meeting for 2017.

History Prize

The Primary School History Prize celebration was held at the Town Hall on 23 November. Mayor Albert van Zetten handed out 18 book vouchers from Petrarch's Bookshop to the winners of the competition. All students received a certificate created and printed by Jenny Gill. President Marion Sargent was MC. Carol Fuller, Karin Le and Kelli Schultz judged the 133 entries from five schools – Mowbray Heights, Riverside and Glen Dhu Primary Schools, St Thomas More's and Sacred Heart.

The Ratcliff Prize of \$200 has been, or is yet to be, awarded to six students from senior secondary schools in Launceston.

David Gaffney won the 2017 UTAS History Prize of \$500 donated by LHS.



Judges and organisers Carol Fuller, Kelli Schultz and Karin Le at the Awards ceremony.



MARITA BARDENHAGEN MEMORIAL AWARD FOR LOCAL HISTORY

The Marita Bardenhagen Memorial Award for Local Histories a biennial award to honour the memory of well-known historian Dr Marita Bardenhagen.

The aim of the Award is to encourage local historians to publish the results of their research. The Award is for a book with significant Tasmanian local history content.

The Award will be determined by an independent judging panel of three, approved by the Trustees of the Award.

Entries for the Award will close on 14 June 2018.

For more information about the Award, please contact Dr Dianne Snowden at dsnowden@tassie.net.au

Education, Flagellation and Recreation: The Story of Royal Park

King Edward VII Statue

By Marion Sargent



Unveiling of the King Edward VII statue. *Weekly Courier*, 12 Dec 1918.

The statue of King Edward VII, dressed in the robes of the Order of the Garter, proudly stands near Paterson Street, surveying Royal Park.

The statue was originally located on the other side of Bathurst Street at the site of the first battery in Launceston behind the Museum facing the bowling green and tennis courts, and overlooking the river.

The monarch died on 6 May 1910. One month later, the King Edward Statue Fund committee was formed to build a suitable memorial for their beloved king.

But it took eight and a half years before the statue was erected. Emma Styant Browne led the fundraising campaign.

The foundation stone was laid with a silver trowel and blackwood mallet on 8 June 1912 by Lt Gen Robert Baden Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts Association. On that day, he also declared that the Depot Grounds were now named 'The Royal Park'.

Alfred Drury, a well-known London sculptor, submitted his design of King Edward's statue to Birmingham, England, for £1,000, but offered it to Launceston for £700.

Then the War broke out in 1914, and Drury said he would complete the work for £500. That offer was accepted, and the sculpture was shipped from England on the *Rangatira*. But, the ship was wrecked on Robben Island, South Africa in April 1916.

Emma Styant Browne and her committee were relieved when the statue finally arrived in Hobart on the *Waiwera* in July 1916. However, because of the War, fundraising was slow, and the statue languished in the Corporation storerooms for two and a half years before there was enough money to build the pedestal and erect the statue.

Finally, it was unveiled with much pomp and ceremony on 9 December 1918 by the Governor Sir Francis Newdegate. Emma would have been delighted that her 'crowning feature' of Royal Park was at last in its place.

That is, until the road was built, and the statue was moved to its present location.

Advance notice of LHS activities for 2018

Launceston Historical Society meetings are held at the meeting room, Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk, on Sundays at 2pm, unless otherwise notified.

15 April	Nigel Burch, <i>Forgotten history of Beaconsfield</i>
21 April	Kerry Lodge Archaeological Project Open Day
20 May	Denis Lake, <i>The celebrated Peddle chair</i> (Tasmanian Heritage Festival)
17 June	Pugh Day Lecture, Dr Colin Chilvers, <i>Anaesthesia and Overseas Aid</i>
15 July	Dr Alison Alexander, <i>The O'Connors of Connorville</i>
19 August	Steve Radford, <i>Captain Samuel William (Bill) Barrett</i>
16 September	Evan Livingstone-Thomas, <i>Stone tool use in Eastern Tasmania: Tracks across the lithic landscape</i>
21 October	30 th Birthday + Karin Le, <i>When Multiculturalism came to Launceston</i>
5 November	Spring Excursion to Strathmore, Nile, Deddington, Monday long weekend
18 November	Dr Stefan Petrow, <i>Tasmanian Anzacs: Tasmanian soldiers and World War One</i>

Members' Column

New members:

The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members, Graham & Sallie Mulligan, Brian Walsh.

A NEW BOOK - *Scotch College Preparatory School: St George's Square 1937-1960*

Recently three of our members Paul Richards, Julian Burgess and Jenny Gill were part of a group of authors who published and launched a new book *Scotch College Preparatory School: St George's Square 1937-1960* on Friday 17 November at the Penquite Campus of Scotch Oakburn College. The book is a limited edition of 150 copies and signed by the five authors and two researchers. The book is only available from Scotch Oakburn College and is on sale for \$30/copy.

Membership Fees + charge for non-members to attend meetings:

From January 2018 membership fees were raised from one to five dollars in most categories. The last time they were increased was in January 2010, eight years ago. We have printed a new membership form and uploaded it on our website: [Membership Form.pdf](#)

From February we are charging non-members \$4.00 to attend our Sunday meetings.

LHS Archaeology Group:

There will be another archaeological dig at Kerry Lodge from 7 to 29 April 2018. If any members wish to take part, please contact John Dent: john.dent@pda.com.au. There will also be an Open Day on 21 April for those who would like to see the work in progress, but not take part in the dig.

From the Past

***Cornwall Chronicle*, Saturday 10 December 1853, page 3**

Land Sale. —

We furnish in this issue a skeleton of the list of town and suburban lots of crown land, which is advertised in the Gazette, for sale at the Court House in this town, on the 4th of next month. Sufficient of the notices is published to enable any party to ascertain the respective localities by making a reference to the charts to guide him. It will be seen that a few lots of the Swamp will be put up; enough of it, perhaps, will fall into the possession of individuals, to occasion the commencement of 'Swamp Town'.

Our History

The Examiner's editorial, 'Community respect for state's history vital', published on 15 January 2018 states:

Recently *The Examiner* launched a new feature series 'Our History'. The series highlights pieces of Launceston's history, the stories behind its buildings and infrastructure and the faces behind those stories. The feedback from readers has been overwhelmingly positive. It's a testament to our community and its ability to respect the city's foundations.

These stories have been contributed by our members. You are welcome to send articles of 420 words, with four landscape pictures, to the president marionsargent@bigpond.com. Read the stories on [Facebook](#).

No	Date	Page	Author	Title	Topic
1	3 Dec 2017	20	Angela Prosser-Green	Hobler's legacy standing	Hobler's Bridge
2	10 Dec 2017	40	Marion Sargent	From Russia with debate	Russian Gun in City Park
3	17 Dec 2017	44	Angela Prosser-Green	From barracks to banking	Commercial Bank of Tasmania
4	24 Dec 2017	39	Denis Lake	Tasmania's chair of choice	Peddle chairs
5	31 Dec 2017	20	Angela Prosser-Green	A visionary entrepreneur	Patrick Tynan
6	7 Jan 2018	18	Marion Sargent	A secret, suburban oasis	Ashfield, St Leonards
7	14 Jan 2018	19	Marion Sargent	City's lasting legal legacy	Court House
8	21 Jan 2018	17	Kelli Schultz	A birthplace of innovation	Lamont family & Braemar
9	28 Jan 2018		Marion Sargent		Mellerstane / Barrington
10	4 Feb 2018		Marion Sargent		Victoria Baths

Other items and events of interest

George Town & District Historical Society: 19 February 2018, at the Hillwood Hall, Peter Cox, *Pioneer Memorial Avenue*; 19 March 2018, at the Tam O'Shanter Golf Club, Jeff Jennings, *Bridport Pier*. Email: info@qtdhs.com.

Tasmanian Historical Research Association: Meetings take place in the Royal Society Room, Custom House, TMAG, Hobart at 8pm. Website: <http://www.thra.org.au>; Email: info@thra.org.au.

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>

Deadline

Items for the next *Newsletter* should be sent to the editor by **1 Apr 2018** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.