



# Launceston Historical Society Inc.

*“Bringing together people with an interest in history”*

## Annual Report for year ending 31 December 2017



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 18 February 2018**

PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Email: [launcestonhistory@gmail.com](mailto:launcestonhistory@gmail.com)

Webpage: [www.launcestonhistory.org.au](http://www.launcestonhistory.org.au)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/launcestonhistory](https://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 2017.

## John West Memorial Lecture



**Catherine Pearce, lecturer Saul Eslake and Marion Sargent**

In March 2017 Saul Eslake presented the 29<sup>th</sup> John West Memorial Lecture with the topic *Education, Productivity and Economic Performance*. The lecture was well received by a large crowd of people at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre at the University of Tasmania. President Marion Sargent was the master of ceremonies, Mr Eslake was introduced by Professor David Adams from UTAS, and LHS Secretary Prue McCausland offered a vote of thanks.

This year the John West Memorial lecturer will be the author and Professor of History Mark McKenna – speaking on *Beyond the Crown: History and Australia's Republican Future* – at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania at Newnham on Friday 16 March 2018 at 8pm.

This prestigious event is held in partnership with the University of Tasmania and with the support of *The Examiner*.

## 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. After the Annual General Meeting in February 2017 our guest speaker, Peter Richardson, told us about the books and periodicals saved from the Launceston Mechanics' Institute. In April Bradley Wood gave a fascinating talk on digging in a Flanders Field. The Committee conducted a walk around the Royal Park precinct in May. In June Prof. Milton Cohen presented the Sixth Pugh Day lecture on pain management with reference to what Dr Pugh would have said 170 years earlier, and in July Jenny Gill entertained us with stories of the clocks of St John's Church.

In August, Dr Louise Zarmati presented a fun-filled talk on teaching history in schools. In September, we watched an audio-visual presentation *Clytie & Me* by Guy Burns on the life of Eric Sargent. In October Barbara Hatley spoke on the history of amateur theatre in Launceston. The final speaker for the year was Christina Henri who delivered an inspiring talk on her Roses from the Heart Project. The Christmas meeting ended with a glass of bubbles and Christmas fare.

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

## Life Memberships

Anne Bartlett and Marion Sargent both received Honorary Life Memberships of the Society at the AGM in February. The honour was bestowed in recognition of their outstanding leadership and tireless services to the objectives of the Society.

## 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 2017, the following committee members were re-elected: Marion Sargent, President; Catherine Pearce, Vice-president and Minute Secretary; Leonie Prevost, Treasurer; and Prue McCausland, Correspondence Secretary.

The other committee members were: Robyn Jones; Steve Jones; Sue McClarron, our Heritage Representative with the City of Launceston; Terry Neal; Rebecca Phillips and two new members Karin Le and Kelli Schultz.

Steve Jones stepped down from the Committee in July 2017 after three and a half years. Thank you for your valuable contributions and good ideas.



## History Prize

To foster an interest in history amongst young people the Society awarded a total of \$2,360 in prize money to students in 2017.

The LHS History Prize for primary school students received 133 entries. The five participating schools were: Glen Dhu, Riverside, and Mowbray Heights Primary Schools and St Thomas More's and Sacred Heart Catholic Primary Schools. The judges, Carol Fuller, Kelli Schultz and Karin Le, awarded 18 prizes of vouchers totalling \$660 from Petrarch's Bookshop. Thank you to Jenny Gill for creating and printing the certificates. Thanks also to Mayor Albert van Zetten who presented the prizes and certificates at the Town Hall on Thursday 23 November.

The Ratcliff Prize for History of \$200 was awarded to the following students: Yasmine Wright Gittins, Launceston College; Thomas Cain, Newstead College; Heather Collins, Scotch Oakburn College; Caleb Robinson, St Patrick's College; Katherine Howe, Launceston Church Grammar School; and Sarah Luete from the Launceston Christian School.

The annual \$500 Launceston Historical Society - Dr Marita Bardenhagen History Prize was awarded to first-year university student David Gaffney.

## Archaeology Group

Behind the scenes John Dent has been organizing another archaeological excavation at Kerry Lodge to be led by Eleanor Cassela in April 2018.

## Community Outreach

The Society has assisted individuals and community organisations in various ways throughout the year. Three articles by Marion Sargent have been published in *The Examiner's* quarterly magazines *In the City* and *Northern Exposure*. Several members have contributed articles on various aspects of Launceston's past in the series 'Our History' in *The Sunday Examiner*. Prue McCausland spoke to a class at Riverside Primary School on changes that have occurred in Launceston and Marion Sargent spoke to the Probus Club of Kings Meadows on the history of Royal Park.

John Dent, Gus Green, Helen Stuart and Marion Sargent are members of the steering committee hoping to secure Paterson Barracks as a History Resource Centre. Catherine Pearce and Sue McClarron are working on the installation of a new sign in City Park with accurate information on the Government Cottage that once stood there.

We have had numerous local and family history requests. Hundreds of people are following us on Facebook. Thank you to City Park Radio and ABC Radio for advertising our meetings.



## Membership

The Historical Society had 134 financial members at the end of 2017. This included 27 new members who joined throughout the year. Sadly, we lost a stalwart of the Society when Dr John Morris passed away in March. Our membership fees were raised by a modest amount from January 2018. A new membership form reflects the new charges. From February 2018 we are charging non-members \$4.00 to attend our Sunday meetings. Members are encouraged to buy an LHS keep cup for \$8.

## Publications

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

We are looking forward to the imminent publication of *A Kaleidoscope of Launceston: More Threads in the Fabric of Launceston*.

## 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 support the Society's activities by attending our meetings, lectures and excursions. We can all look forward to our thirtieth anniversary in October 2018 with pride and satisfaction.

Marion Sargent  
President 2017