



# Launceston Historical Society Inc.

## Newsletter No 162

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

*Bringing together people with an interest in history*

### Welcome to the Committee Members for 2018

Thank you to everyone who came to the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 18 February 2018. Gus Green took the Chair while the new committee for 2018 was elected.

We welcome one recruit, Bradley Wood. Marion Sargent was re-appointed President for her seventh term. The other committee members are Catherine Pearce (Vice-president and Minute Secretary), Leonie Prevost (Treasurer and Public Officer), Prue McCausland (Correspondence Secretary), Robyn Jones, Sue McClarron, Terry Neal, Rebecca Phillips, Karin Le and Kelli Schultz.

The 2017 Annual Report can be read online: <http://launcestonhistory.org.au/publications/annual-reports/>

The guest speaker after the AGM was John Dent, who gave us an entertaining talk on the Kings Meadows Convict Road Station. See pages 2 and 5 for more information.



Enjoying a coffee after the AGM. Bradley Wood and Louise Zarmati are in the centre.

### Membership Renewals for those who have not paid

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

## New Norfolk Excursion



The excursion to New Norfolk on 10-11 February 2018 was a great success. Thank you to Louise Zarmati and Brad Wood for organising the fascinating guided tour of Willow Court by Prof. Heather Burke, and enabling us to watch or participate in the excavations behind Frescati House. On Sunday we visited the antique shops and the sadly abandoned buildings of the Asylum complex. On the way home, we stopped off at Ross for a couple of hours.

## Kings Meadows Convict Road Station

The guest speaker at our AGM on 18 February was **John Dent**. He used his skills as a surveyor and historian to solve the mystery of the location of the Kings Meadows Road Station. It housed chain gangs working on the Evandale to Launceston water scheme, which was never completed. Records state that the Road Station was built next to a water channel (KM Rivulet), near a mill site, half a mile from the main road to Hobart and 3-5 miles from Launceston. The name 'Mr A Best' appears on the plan of the Road Station. John discovered that this was Anthony Best, who leased 320 acres from the trustees of Edward French, whose name is marked on the land grant maps. Mr Best used the land to supply timber to Launceston and breed horses. It was opposite where Bunnings is today, and at the end of Raglan Street.

Alexander Cheyne, the Director General of Roads and Bridges, started work on the Road Station in August 1836. The chain gang wards and stores were constructed of squared logs laid horizontally and nailed together. The rest of the buildings were timber framed and lined on the outside with feather-edged boards. The superintendent's cottage was lathed and plastered on the inside. All had shingle roofs.



## John West Memorial Lecture



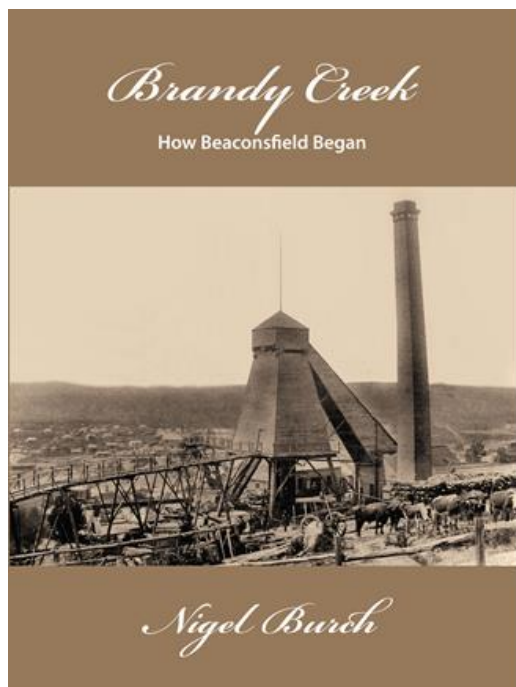
**Prof. Mark McKenna (middle) pictured with Terry and Tony Neal.**

Historian Professor Mark McKenna presented the 30<sup>th</sup> John West Lecture at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre at the University of Tasmania on Friday 16 March 2018. His inspiring lecture was entitled *Beyond the Crown: History and Australia's Republican Future*.

President Marion Sargent was MC, Professor Dominic Geraghty from UTAS introduced Mark and Prue McCausland offered a vote of thanks. Listen to the lecture on our webpage: [launcestonhistory.org.au/](http://launcestonhistory.org.au/).

Sunday 15 April 2018 – 2pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk

### Nigel Burch: *Some early social history of Beaconsfield*



**Biography:** Nigel is a retired company director with a passion for Tasmanian history. He lives in Riverside.

Having served as an adviser on mining to the Tasmanian and Bosnian governments, Nigel naturally has an interest in both mining and government. He has written five major books on mining in the Tamar region and is about to release a definitive 600-page biography of Thomas Daniel Chapman, whom he regards as our greatest Premier.

Though his latest book is not out yet, it has already had two interesting consequences. In tracing Premier Chapman's family tree, Nigel discovered an 1839 portrait of the Premier as a young man. It was owned by an elderly lady in Langley, British Columbia. She said the painting wasn't appreciated in Canada and decided to donate it to QVMAG! It is now undergoing restoration.

Research into the biography also uncovered a wealth of new and largely adverse information on the Lt-Governor in office during Tom Chapman's time – Sir William Denison. Nigel gave a presentation of the new information to the Electoral

Commission, resulting in them changing the Denison electorate name to Clark late last year.

Though local history takes up most of his time, Nigel also volunteers in several capacities. He is a volunteer tutor/problem solver for West Tamar seniors with computer and phone problems. He has a long association with the Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden in Burnie and has done their newsletter for many years. He is also Treasurer for a local charity and for the Tasmanian Lapidary and Mineral Association. At one time he was a director of the TFGA and a national director of the RSPCA.

**Abstract:** Nigel's talk, *Some early social history of Beaconsfield*, will look at how the Ilfracombe district was settled, and the town of Beaconsfield began, focusing on the social side rather than mining. What was Beaconsfield like, and what made it special?

Sunday 20 May 2018 – 2pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk

### Denis Lake: *The celebrated Peddle chair*



The Peddle chair touched the lives of many Tasmanians. Denis Lake, the author of *The men who made the Celebrated Chairs: Windsor-chair making in Tasmania*, invites you to share the Peddle chair story. Bring a Peddle chair, a photo or a personal story, if you have one.

George Peddle and his brother-in-law, Harry Hearn brought the traditional craft of Windsor-chair making to the colony of Tasmania at the end of the 19th century. The Peddle chair was made first at Austin's Ferry then Launceston and later at Nabowla in the north east. The Tasmanian Government Railways had Peddle chairs in their waiting rooms; they were in schools, public buildings, and commercial offices. Most importantly they were at the heart of family life, set around the kitchen table in Tasmanian homes and farmhouses.

**Denis Lake** has been restoring antique furniture professionally for over 40 years. His love of the social history of furniture led him on a twenty-year quest to uncover the story of how George and Harry fared in this settler society and the role the chairs played in Tasmanian life. He will demonstrate how to identify a genuine Peddle chair and determine which of the two men made it. *A Tasmanian Heritage Festival event.*

# Kerry Lodge Archaeological Project

Open Days 21 & 22 April 2018

The Kerry Lodge Bridge (also Strathroy Bridge and "Spikey Bridge") is located on Hobart Road about 1.5m south of Franklin House. The bridge is still in use today. It was built with convict labour.

The Kerry Lodge Archaeology Project (KLAP) is in its third year and is trying to locate the buildings used to house the convicts when building the bridge. In 2017 what was probably the overseer's house was partially excavated. It revealed a detached kitchen and intact walls of the house including internal salmon coloured plaster. Other finds included a hoe, china, glass, buttons and pipe stems. A special find was a piece of flint used by British Soldiers to use in their flintlock muskets.

In April 2018 the excavation under the control of Professor Eleanor Casella will expand the area of the cottage and look for the possible timber convict accommodation about 50 metres away from the cottage.

LHS member volunteers are welcome to participate in the "dig", just contact John Dent on [john.dent@pda.com.au](mailto:john.dent@pda.com.au).

The site is at 563 Hobart Road, Breadalbane, just 100 metres south of the bridge.

LHS members are welcome to visit the site for a **special open day on Saturday 21 April at 2pm**.

There will be a **public open day on Sunday 22 April at 11am and 2pm** and will last for about an hour. All are welcome.

Professor Eleanor Casella and Dr Karen Hall will be giving a **public lecture on Sunday 13 May at 2pm** at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre at the Newnham University Campus.

For more information contact: John Dent - 0408 133 656.

## History Prizes

The Society's Primary History Prize is now open for 2018. The entry form and guidelines are on our website: <http://launcestonhistory.org.au/activities/history-prize/>. Encourage children from grades 3 to 6 to enter. Book vouchers will be awarded to the winning entries. Every participant will receive a certificate.

For the last five years the Society has awarded the \$200 Ratcliff Prize for History to students from six senior secondary schools in Launceston. This is no longer viable due to our diminishing bank balance.

We will continue to award the annual \$500 Launceston Historical Society – Dr Marita Bardenhagen History Prize to a first-year student at the University of Tasmania studying in Launceston.

## 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.**

<b>13 May</b>	<b>Dr Eleanor Casella and Dr Karen Hall</b> , <i>Kerry Lodge Lecture</i> , Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, UTAS, Newnham, 2pm
<b>17 June</b>	<b>Pugh Day Lecture, Dr Colin Chilvers</b> , <i>Anaesthesia and Overseas Aid</i>
<b>15 July</b>	<b>Dr Alison Alexander</b> , <i>The O'Connors of Connorville</i>
<b>19 August</b>	<b>Steve Radford</b> , <i>Captain Samuel William (Bill) Barrett</i>
<b>16 September</b>	<b>Evan Livingstone-Thomas</b> , <i>Stone tool use in Eastern Tasmania: Tracks across the lithic landscape</i>
<b>21 October</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> Birthday + Karin Le</b> , <i>When Multiculturalism came to Launceston</i>
<b>5 November</b>	<b>Spring Excursion to Strathmore and Patterdale</b> , Monday long weekend. There are still a few bus seats available. BYO lunch. More details in the next Newsletter.
<b>18 November</b>	<b>Dr Stefan Petrow</b> , <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, Marita Bodman, Noel Broomhall, Kelly Constance, Judith Gage, Deborah Malor, Fiona McKenna, Irina Petrovsky, Annette Shady, Ian Thomas and Douglas Snare.

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

From January 2018 membership fees were raised from one to five dollars in most categories. We have printed a new membership form and uploaded it on our website: [Membership Form.pdf](#)

We are now charging non-members \$4.00 to attend our Sunday meetings.

## Raffle Tickets at meetings:

We held our first raffle as a fundraiser at the John West Lecture. It was fun, and we made \$174.

## 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](mailto:john.dent@pda.com.au). There will also be a members Open Day from 2pm on 21 April for those who would like to see the work in progress, but not take part in the dig.

# From the Past

## *Launceston Examiner and Cornwall Chronicle, 9 September 1854*

### Unreserved Sale of Extensive Freehold Property. Six Small Farm Sections.

MR. HENRY HOWE is favored with Instructions from the Devises of the late Mr. French, to submit to public competition ... THE COUNTRY PROPERTY Comprises six farm sections of from 50 to 60 acres each, situate within two miles of Launceston, beyond "Carr Villa", on the opposite side of the road. On one of the farms stand a weather boarded cottage and extensive out buildings, formerly used as a **government road station**. Bordering so nearly, as this locality does, upon the town, the soil is peculiarly adapted for agriculture, and an inexhaustible supply of good water close at hand, are advantages which appertain, to very few small farms in the vicinity of Launceston; and It must be obvious to persons who possess the slightest acquaintance with farming, that many benefits accrue to a suburban farmer, which the more remote seldom experience. The auctioneer is requested to acquaint Intending purchasers that the above property, having been devised by will to the sons of the late Mr. French, the entire estate must be sold, in order to a legal appropriation of the respective shares.

\*\* Plans of the estate may be seen at the mart of the auctioneer, after the 1st October next, copies of which will be given on application, one week prior to the sale, so as to afford persons an opportunity of minutely inspecting the subdivisions of land.

# Our History

These stories on Launceston's history 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](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com). Read the stories in *The Sunday Examiner* or on [Facebook](#).

No	Date	Page	Author	Title	Topic
10	4 Feb 2018	20	Marion Sargent	Baths made a big splash	Victoria Baths
11	11 Feb 2018	20	Jenny Gill	Window on a sacred past	St John's window
12	18 Feb 2018	20	Marion Sargent	Tas caught cycling craze	Cycling in Launceston
13	25 Feb 2018	20	Kelli Schultz	The soul of Abbott Street	Chelsea Grove
14	4 Mar 2018	20	Marion Sargent	A festive Furneaux cruise	Cruise of the Colliboi
15	11 Mar 2018	20	John Dent	The very best of brickish	Paterson Barracks
16	18 Mar 2018	20	Marion Sargent	The royal crowning glory	King Edward VII statue
17	25 Mar 2018	20	Jenny Gill	Man of industry and faith	Cameron window, St John's
18	1 Apr 2018	38	Marion Sargent	A contagious refinement	Carr Villa estate
19	8 Apr 2018		Marion Sargent		Carr Villa Cemetery

## Other items and events of interest

**Oral History Workshop:** Jill Cassidy will conduct an oral history workshop in Launceston on Saturday 26 May 2018 for Oral History Tasmania. It will cover all aspects of oral history practice. Topics include the value of oral history, the use of equipment, preparation for an interview and interview technique, along with ethics and alternatives to transcription. There will be a demonstration of OHT's digital recorder, available for hire, and participants will do practice interviews and listen to interview excerpts.

Cost of the workshop (includes lunch) is \$50 for non-members of OHT, and \$30 for students. Prior registration is essential. Contact Jill Cassidy on 0418 178 098, or [president@oralhistorytas.org.au](mailto:president@oralhistorytas.org.au).

**Lilian Watson Family History Award:** The Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. has an annual award for a book on family history. The Award honours the memory and the contributions to genealogy and family history of Mrs Lilian Watson who died in March 1996. The Award is for a book however produced or published on paper, dealing with family or biographical history and having a significant Tasmanian content, and is open to the general public.

The Conditions of Entry and Entry Forms are available from the TFHS Inc. Branch Libraries or by applying to the Family History Award Co-ordinator, PO Box 326, Rosny Park, Tasmania, 7018 or by email to [secretary@tasfhs.org](mailto:secretary@tasfhs.org). These forms may also be downloaded at [www.tasfhs.org](http://www.tasfhs.org).

The winner of the 2017 Award will be announced and presented at the Society's Annual General Meeting at Ross on Saturday 23 June 2018. The winner of the 2018 Award will be announced and presented at the Society's AGM in June 2019.

The closing date for entries is 1 December 2018.

**George Town & District Historical Society:** Meetings take place at The Grove, George Town. 16 April 2018, Ben Bishop, *North East Endurance Tin Mine*; 21 May 2018, *Flash Back – Early stories of George Town*. Email: [info@gtlhs.com](mailto:info@gtlhs.com).

**Tasmanian Historical Research Association:** Meetings take place in the Legacy Function Room, 159 Macquarie Street, Hobart at 8pm. 10 April 2018, John Burns, *Barbary Lion & Hands on History in Museums*; 8 May 2018, Kathy Gatenby, *William McCulloch of Maria Island*. Website: <http://www.thra.org.au>; Email: [info@thra.org.au](mailto:info@thra.org.au).

### Launceston Historical Society

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Minute Secretary	Catherine Pearce	
Correspondence Secretary	Prue McCausland	6327 2540
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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/launcestonhistory>

## Deadline

Items for the next *Newsletter* should be sent to the editor by **1 June 2018** at [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com) or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.

Newsletter printed by courtesy of Peter Gutwein MP, Liberal Member for Bass.