



# Launceston Historical Society Inc.

## Newsletter No 165

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

*Bringing together people with an interest in history*

### Captain Bill Barrett

On 19 August 2018 Steve Radford spoke about the life of Captain Bill Barrett on the 25 or so ships, ketches and tug boats he worked on during a career spanning 60 years. He carried cargo, cleared mines, salvaged sunken ships, and was a fisheries inspector as he rose through the ranks from cabin boy to master mariner. Captain Barrett retired in 2000 and died in 2016 at the age of 94.



Three of Captain Bill's four children attended the talk: from left Ian Barrett, Maxine White and Michael Barrett with Steve Radford



President Marion Sargent with speaker Evan Livingstone-Thomas at the September meeting

### Archaeology of the Ancient Tasmanians

On 16 September 2018, PhD candidate Evan Livingstone-Thomas presented an exciting and thought-provoking lecture on the history of archaeology. He explained how Tasmania offers a most extraordinary opportunity to do archaeology in its purest sense, i.e. *to learn about human culture by studying material remains*. Modern archaeology is so much more than just digging up sites – the way forward will be to demonstrate to cultural stakeholders that they retain ownership and control of the processes – as archaeologists, we simply provide the know-how. Our common goal is to inspire public interest and admiration for Aboriginal Tasmanian culture.

**Sunday 21 October 2018 – 2pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk**

**Karin Le, *When Multiculturalism came to Launceston***



When the white Australia policy came to an end in 1973, the new policy of multiculturalism was introduced. The slow transition process that ensued took on particular momentum in Launceston with the establishment of the Migrant Resource Centre in 1982. Nevertheless, this was not a smooth process. In her talk, Karin will describe how the “spirit of multiculturalism” was slowly introduced to Launceston using government policies, new structures, visual arts and craft, music, and food among other facets. Many different means were used to slowly make the idea of multiculturalism acceptable for Launcestonian mainstream society. Now, the people from many diverse migrant communities are a vibrant day-to-day appearance in our streets and belong to the image of our city.

**30<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

We will celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this month with birthday cake and bubbles after Karin’s presentation! Join us for this significant event.

**Karin Le will speak in October.**

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

**Dr Stefan Petrow, *Breaking German Resistance: Tasmanian Soldiers and the End of World War One***

In the first few months of 1918 the German Army made a concerted attempt to defeat the Allied troops and win World War One. This attempt failed and the Allied troops, with Australians, New Zealanders and Canadians prominent, spent the rest of the year in heavy fighting and driving the German Army back to its most heavily fortified and last defensive line, the Hindenburg Line. In September 1918 Australian troops helped the British Army secure strategic positions from which to attack and break the Hindenburg Line and therefore the declining power of the German Army. Stefan Petrow’s November talk will examine the role played by Tasmanian soldiers in the 12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Battalions in achieving that objective and helping to bring a close to four long years of war.



**Professor Stefan Petrow** teaches Australian and European history at the University of Tasmania in Hobart. He has published five books, edited three more and has written numerous articles on Tasmanian history from first settlement to the 1980s. He is completing a two-volume book entitled *Tasmanian Anzacs: Tasmanian Soldiers and World War One*.

**Monday 5 November 2018 – 10am from the car park behind the RSL, Eardley Street  
Spring Excursion to Strathmore, Deddington Chapel and Patterdale.**

There are two vacant seats left on the bus or bring your own car. BYO lunch, snacks and thermos.

Cost \$50 per person. Contact Leonie Prevost.

## New Government Cottage Sign



A new sign installed in City Park, Launceston on 11 September 2018 marks the spot where Government Cottage once stood. The other side has a timeline from 1806. Pictured from left to right: Lynette Ross, Catherine Pearce, Sue McClarron and Prue McCausland.

The site of old Government House that was in City Park has long needed some better recognition than the unobtrusive metal plaque in the ground. Finally, we have an interpretative sign at the site. The sign was installed by Think Big printers on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Several interested people were there to witness the installation. In attendance were Dannielle Denning and another City of Launceston Natural Environment officer. Marion, Catherine, Sue, Rebecca and Prue from the LHS committee were also there, and other members of LHS attended – Lynette Ross, John Dent and Gus Green. The sign is double-sided with a timeline of significant events at the cottage on one side and general information on the other. It is located next to a bench seat just above the cannon. Please take a look when you are next in City Park. Sue



Think Big employee installing the sign in Launceston's City Park on 11 September 2018.

## Advance notice of LHS activities for 2019

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

17 February	AGM + Brad Williams, <i>Oatlands Commissariat Restoration</i>
15 March	John West Memorial Lecture, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC. <i>Topic to be advised.</i> Friday, 8pm at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Lecture Theatre, UTAS, Newnham
21 April	Maureen Martin Ferris, <i>Louisa Anne Meredith</i>
19 May	Lynette Ross, <i>Government Cottage in City Park</i> (Tasmanian Heritage Festival)
16 June	Pugh Day Lecture, to be advised
21 July	Duncan Grant, <i>Small churches of Northern Tasmania</i>
18 August	Nick Brodie & Kristyn Harman, <i>topic to be advised</i>
15 September	Tony Marshall, <i>Edward Abbott senior &amp; junior &amp; Launceston connections</i>
20 October	To be advised
17 November	Jill Cassidy, <i>History of Deviot</i>

## Members' Column

### New members:

The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: John & Ruth Bakker, Joan Dennis and Suzanne Dennis.

### 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 and enjoy afternoon tea.

### LHS Archaeology Group:

Contact John Dent: [john.dent@pda.com.au](mailto:john.dent@pda.com.au).

**2017 Lilian Watson Family History Award winner:** Our member Julieanne Richards and Kim Simpson's book *Home from War: Stories from the Newstead War Service Homes, Launceston, Tasmania, Australia* won the prize for the best book on family history. It "captures the stories of war veterans and their families, giving a first-hand account of their lives". See *Tasmanian Ancestry*, Vol. 39, No. 2, September 2018.

## 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
37	12 Aug 2018	20	Julian Burgess	Golden age of the Gorge	The Gorge gold rush
38	19 Aug 2018	20	Marion Sargent	More history lies beneath	Friends' Cemetery
39	26 Aug 2018	22	Rebecca Phillips	World opens up for women	1975 Int. Women's Year
40	2 Sep 2018	16	Jenny Gill	A unique tribute to heroes	Scotch Oakburn Chapel
41	9 Sep 2018	20	Julian Burgess	The time of his natural life	Moses Phillips, watchmaker
42	16 Sep 2018	38	Jenny Gill	Holy heart of a community	Franklin Village Chapel
43	23 Sep 2018	20	Kelli Schultz	A flood of local industries	Distillery Creek
44	30 Sep 2018		Marion Sargent		Elizabeth Gardens

## Other items and events of interest

**George Town & District Historical Society:** Meetings take place at The Grove, George Town. 15 Oct 2018, AGM – *Remnants of Chinese Mining in N.E. Tasmania*; 11 Nov 2018, Biennial Conference: *Colony to Colony – The influence of Tasmania on settlement of Victoria*. Email: [info@gtdhs.com](mailto:info@gtdhs.com).

**Tasmanian Historical Research Association:** Meetings take place in the Legacy Function Rooms, 159 Macquarie Street, Hobart at 8pm. 13 Nov 2018, Alan Townsend, *Historic wallpaper in Tasmania*; 11 Dec 2018, Rodney Croome, *From Worst to Best: A History of the LGBTI Human Rights Movement in Tasmania*. Website: <http://www.thra.org.au>; Email: [info@thra.org.au](mailto:info@thra.org.au).

**Centenary of Armistice and Family History Day:** The Friends of St Paul's Springfield, in conjunction with Dorset Tasmania History Society, will commemorate the day at the Springfield Hall (near Scottsdale) on Sunday 11 November 2018 from 10am – 4pm. There will be an historical display, digital presentation and family searches. Morning & afternoon tea will be available. Gold coin donation. Enquiries to Robert Smith on 6334 0726 or [robbder@bigpond.com](mailto:robbder@bigpond.com)

## New book on the history of Launceston



**Paul A.C. Richards AM, Barbara Valentine OAM and Dr Tom P. Dunning**

On Saturday 11 August 2018 a new book on the history of Launceston was launched by the LGH Historical Committee in the ARTrium Galley, NICS building, Launceston General Hospital. This is the fifth book published by the committee in the past three years. The book titled ***The Kaleidoscope of Launceston: Shedding More Light on The Fabric*** was launched by the Hon Mr Don Wing AM. During the launch music was provided by Suzanne Turner and Phil Pitcher and Mrs Anita Bowley a director of Foot and Playsted spoke on the close association the editors of the book had with her firm.

The editors of this publication were Dr Tom Dunning, Mrs Barbara Valentine OAM and Mr Paul A.C. Richards AM, all members of both the Launceston Historical Society and LGH Historical Committee. Dr Dunning said that this book built on a prior book *The Fabric of Launceston* published in 2016 which received support for LHS. The book which is considered a community history has several Launceston historians who wrote essays on subjects including literary societies, cinemas, Paterson Barracks, apple industry, Glasgow Engineering and Kings Wharf. Some 38 essays in the book express the talent and wealth of Launceston historians.

The book is dedicated to Mr John Shepherd a past member of the Northern Tasmanian Camera Club and photographic historian. Mr Anthony Casamento's photographic images of Launceston's buildings are featured throughout **the book which is on sale and can be purchased from The Clifford Craig Foundation, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Launceston General Hospital for \$40.**

## More items and events of interest

**Golden Anniversary Exhibition:** The Embroiderers' Guild of Tasmania is holding an exhibition celebrating its fiftieth year at the Punchbowl Christian Centre, Punchbowl Road, Launceston from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018, 10am to 4pm. The official opening will be on Wednesday 3 October at 2pm. Entry is \$5 (adults). Gift stall and refreshments available.

**Book Launch:** *Courage, Calmness and Caring: Nurses trained at the Launceston General Hospital who served in World War I and World War II* by Deanna Ellis. You are invited to the launch by Helen Bryan, Adjunct Associate Professor | Executive Director of Nursing | Tasmanian Health Service – North at 11am on Sunday 11 November 2018 in the Brumby Horse Gallery, Level 3 LGH. Books will be available for \$20 at the Clifford Craig Foundation Office, 5th floor LGH after the launch – cash, cheque or credit card. This is sixth book published by the LGH Historical Committee.

### **The 11th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE of the George Town & District Historical Society Inc:**

*Colony to Colony Conference: The Influence of Tasmanians on the Settlement of Victoria*

When: Saturday 10 November 2018 (8.45am for 9.15 am start to 4.15 pm)

Where: York Cove Centre, 4 Sorell Street, George Town

(George Town Senior Citizens Clubrooms. Turn left at the Watch House in Macquarie St)

Cost: \$35 (includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea)

#### Speakers & Topics:

Judy Walsh:	<i>The David Collins Settlement at Sorrento</i>
Rick Smith:	<i>The First Inter-Colonial Cricket Match, 1851</i>
Anne Green:	<i>William Dutton and the Whaling Industry on the South Coast of New Holland</i>
Margaret Fletcher:	<i>The Manifolds – from Kelso to Camperdown</i>
Ian McFarlane:	<i>George Augustus Robinson and the Aborigines</i>
James Parker:	<i>The Port Phillip Company and the Settlement of Melbourne &amp; Batman's Treaty</i>
Peter Cox:	<i>The Shipping Trade Between Launceston and the Port Phillip Settlements</i>
Thomas Gunn:	<i>The "Vandemonians" impact on criminal activity in Melbourne and the Goldfields</i>
Brian Gunst:	<i>John Batman impersonated - the Batman Festivals</i>

Contact: Chlo Martin for more information & registration (due Mon 29 October)

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#### **Launceston Historical Society**

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### **Deadline**

Items for the next *Newsletter* should be sent to the editor by **1 Feb 2019** 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.