



Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 166

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Bringing together people with an interest in history

Annual General Meeting + Brad Williams

Sunday 17 February 2019 – 2pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk

Welcome to another year of history! **The 2019 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, **8 February 2019**. We need two new committee members 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.

Brad Williams: *The Oatlands Commissariat Restoration Project*

Between 2016 and late 2018, an extensive restoration project was undertaken by Southern Midlands Council on the Oatlands Commissariat (1827). This is one of the oldest stone buildings at Oatlands and one of very few commissariat stores remaining in Tasmania. It operated from 1827-1859 as the provisioning store for the Oatlands Military Precinct and associated convict sites around Oatlands. After 1859 it was sold into private ownership and in 1883 was converted to a bakery, which operated until the 1950s. Since then, the building had been used as a shed and when purchased by Southern Midlands Council in 2013 was in danger of imminent collapse. A conservation management plan and master plan were put in place, and funding secured through the Australian Government for the restoration of the building, and together with the 1880's former bakers' shop on the same site, are soon to open as the Oatlands Heritage Hub and will also house the Centre for Heritage at Oatlands' training rooms.

This talk will be delivered by **Brad Williams**, Manager Heritage Projects, Southern Midlands Council, and project manager for the Oatlands Commissariat Restoration Project. Brad has worked in historical archaeology and restoration project management in Tasmania for 15 years.

Membership Renewals

Annual subscriptions for the Launceston Historical Society were due on 31 December 2018.

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 31st John West Memorial Lecture

Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AC
Governor of Tasmania

Transportation re-visited: lessons for modern penal policy?

Friday 15 March 2019 – 8pm

Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania, Newnham.



Abstract:

John West was one of the most influential opponents of transportation and condemned it as a failed penal policy. However, in terms of re-integration and rehabilitation it was more effective than either physical punishment or imprisonment. What lessons does it have for penal policy today?





When Multiculturalism came to Launceston

In October 2018, Karin Lê gave a talk on how multiculturalism in Australia came about, starting with the years after WW2 when Arthur Calwell, the first immigration minister, gave his famous “populate or perish speech”. Karin described the end of the White Australia policy in 1973, followed by the active introduction and development of multiculturalism throughout the 1980s. She pointed out how the Good Neighbour Council was created as part of the assimilation policy at the end of the 1940s, and how it was subsequently replaced by the Migrant Resource Centres supporting multiculturalism and integration of the different waves of migrants and refugees. Particularly well received were her biographical sketches of migrants that have been influential in Tasmanian social and cultural life. These included artists, wine producers and people who introduced many foods that were not traditionally part of Tasmania’s food culture, but which are the ‘local produce’ for which Tasmania is now famous.



30th Birthday Celebration

After Karin Lê’s talk in October we celebrated the 30th birthday of the Launceston Historical Society. Patricia Ratcliff was the driving force behind the Society, formed in October 1988. Several members who were at the first public meeting back then were also present at the meeting 30 years later.

The President, Marion Sargent, thanked the current committee for the wonderful work they do to facilitate the monthly talks, John West Memorial Lecture, excursions, history walks and history prizes. She also thanked the members and visitors who attend the meetings and take part in other activities – some for many years – and for buying raffle tickets. This is a new initiative which is allowing the Society to keep afloat and continue into the future. Billie Eastoe, a long-time member, won the fantastic Christmas hamper in the raffle this month. Eric Ratcliff cut the birthday cake, and we all enjoyed some bubbles and a chat.

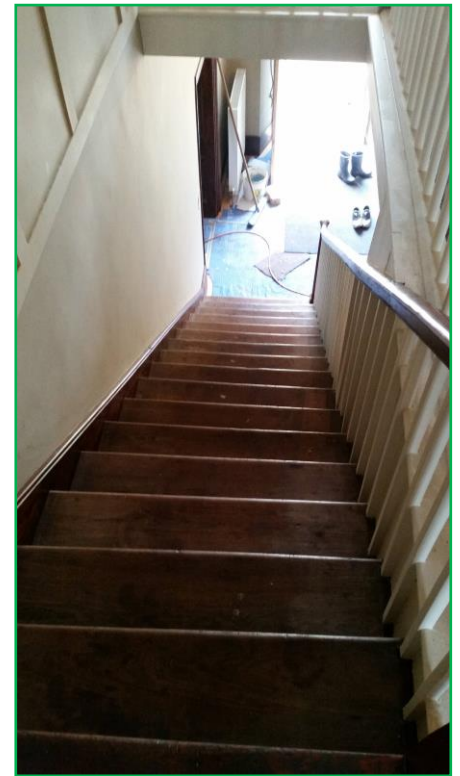


Breaking German Resistance in WW1

On 18 November 2018, just one week after the centenary of the Armistice, Dr Stefan Petrow delivered a graphic account of the part Tasmanian soldiers played in breaking German resistance in a bid to end the ‘futility and sacrifice’ of the War on the Western Front. He has been writing about Tasmanian infantry battalions since 2011, using first hand accounts from diaries and letters of the young men who marched off to war in 1914-18. He illustrated his talk with biographical sketches of about 20 Tasmanians from the north of the state. By August 1918 they were tired of war but showed great dash in breaking through the Hindenburg Line in order to force an end to hostilities. When the guns did fall silent on 11 November 1918 there was little rejoicing on the front line. Perhaps there was relief that at last they could soon go home. In 2019 Stefan will publish a three-volume book entitled *Tasmanian Anzacs: Tasmanian Soldiers and World War One*.

We enjoyed Christmas cake and bubbles after the lecture.

Spring Excursion to Strathmore, Deddington Chapel and Patterdale.



Members of the Launceston Historical Society had a great day out on Monday, 5 November 2018. Sue Gillon gave us a most interesting and informative tour of the magnificent gardens at Strathmore, Nile. Carol Westmore opened the cute little chapel at Deddington where artist John Glover is buried. We also visited his house at Patterdale where Carol is doing a marvellous job bringing it back to its former glory.



11th Primary History Prize

Congratulations to all 121 students from the four schools who submitted entries – Mowbray Heights and Exeter Primary Schools and St Thomas More's and Sacred Heart Catholic Schools. Well done to the 12 students who received a prize of a book voucher from Petrarch's Bookshop, a copy of *Stories in Stone* and an LHS pencil from the Mayor, Albert van Zetten, at the Town Hall on 29 November. See the article in *The Examiner*, 1 Dec 2018.



Marita Bardenhagen Memorial Award for Local History

Congratulations to our member Maureen Martin Ferris and others for winning the Marita Bardenhagen Memorial Award for Local History for the marvellous book *Houses and Estates of Old Glamorgan* published by the Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society. Maureen is pictured with Alex Thomson.

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.

14 April	Maureen Martin Ferris, <i>Louisa Anne Meredith</i>
19 May	John Dent & Darren Watton, <i>Archaeology of the Kings Meadows Road Station</i> (Tasmanian Heritage Festival, 'This Place Matters')
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 & junior & Launceston connections</i>
20 October	Lynette Ross, <i>Government Cottage in City Park</i>
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: James Smith, Jeanette Gatenby, Jodie Green and Gwen Woods.

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.

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. Read the stories in *The Sunday Examiner* or on [Facebook](#).

No	Date	Page	Author	Title	Topic
44	30 Sep 2018	18	Marion Sargent	Garden of living memory	Elizabeth Gardens
45	7 Oct 2018	18	Kelli Schultz	Foundations of knowledge	Mechanics' Institute
46	14 Oct 2018	16	Julian Burgess	Those early golden years	The Examiner in 1892
47	21 Oct 2018	20	Julian Burgess	Family sailed into history	TC Archer & yachting
48	28 Oct 2018	20	Jenny Gill	A snapshot of the sacred	St John's Church before 1935
49	4 Nov 2018	42	Susan Moore	Park's mystery bears fruit	Napoleon pear tree
50	11 Nov 2018	17	Jenny Gill	Chapel's unique memorial	Grammar Memorial Chapel
51	18 Nov 2018	20	Jenny Gill	Place of love and devotion	St Mathias Church 175 years
52	25 Nov 2018	17	Kelli Schultz	Vital stitch in city's fabric	St Ailbe's Hall
53	2 Dec 2018	17	Jill Cassidy	An ebb and flow of history	History of Deviot
54	9 Dec 2018	20	Jenny Gill	Piecing together the past	Mosaic tiles
55	16 Dec 2018	20	Catherine Pearce	City's own doyens of style	McKinlay's
56	23 Dec 2018	18	Marion Sargent	Regal centre of attention	Prince's Square
57	30 Dec 2018	16	Jenny Gill	St John's east end view	View from St John's Church
58	6 Jan 2019	18	Julian Burgess	Foundations of Eskleigh	Scone, Perth
59	13 Jan 2019	20	Hugh Rickerby	Absolute corker of a tale	Cork tree at Sacred Heart
60	20 Jan 2019	20	Kelli Schultz	City had a heart of stone	Cataract Quarry
61	27 Jan 2019	20	Dianne Cassidy	Resting place for pioneers	Cypress Street Cemetery
62	3 Feb 2019		Jenny Gill		St Peter's Church
63	10 Feb 2019		Marion Sargent		Hatton & Laws Pharmacy

From the Past

Henry Button, *Flotsam and Jetsam*, page 288

Sunset glows – Krakatoa eruption

About the middle of 1883 residents in Tasmania and on the mainland began to notice very bright and beautiful glows attending sunsets. These had existed for several days without eliciting more than an occasional remark of admiration, but persistence and increasing brilliance led to speculation as to the cause of the phenomenon. Nor was there long to wait for an explanation. On 26th, 27th, and 28th August the small volcanic island of Krakatoa in the Strait of Sunda broke out into the most violent eruption of historic times. The volcano had been active during the preceding part of the month, but on the days named the crater walls fell in, together with part of the ocean bed, carrying with it two-thirds of the island, an area of eight or nine square miles, and creating two small islands which subsequently disappeared. The noise of the eruption was heard over 2000 miles, and the sea was covered for miles with floating pumice. At the same time a huge volcanic wave inundated the neighbouring coasts of Java and Sumatra, causing the loss of 36,500 lives, the destruction of 300 villages, and encircling the globe before its energy was expended. Dust and other finely divided particles of matter forced by the explosion to enormous heights were carried by concentric atmospheric waves which travelled at least three times around the earth. This was the cause of the glows of which reference has been made, and which lasted, with gradually diminishing effect, for fully two years.

Other items and events of interest

Library Book Sale: Saturday 2 March 2019, 9.00am – 1.00pm, St Ailbe's Hall, 46 Margaret Street, Launceston. Come and join us at Launceston's best book sale! A wide range of good quality, donated books – *All at rock bottom prices*. Supported by Launceston Library and Riverside Lions Club. Proceeds support library services in Launceston.

George Town & District Historical Society: Meetings take place at The Grove, George Town. Email: info@qtdhs.com.

Tasmanian Historical Research Association: Meetings take place in the Legacy Function Rooms, 159 Macquarie Street, Hobart at 8pm. 12 Feb 2019, AGM + Pam Sharpe, *The indefatigable zeal of Robert McNally: The memoir of a soldier in Van Diemen's Land in the 1820s*; 12 Mar 2019, Bill Cox, *A Tasmanian Life*. Website: <http://www.thra.org.au>; 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 Apr 2019** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.

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