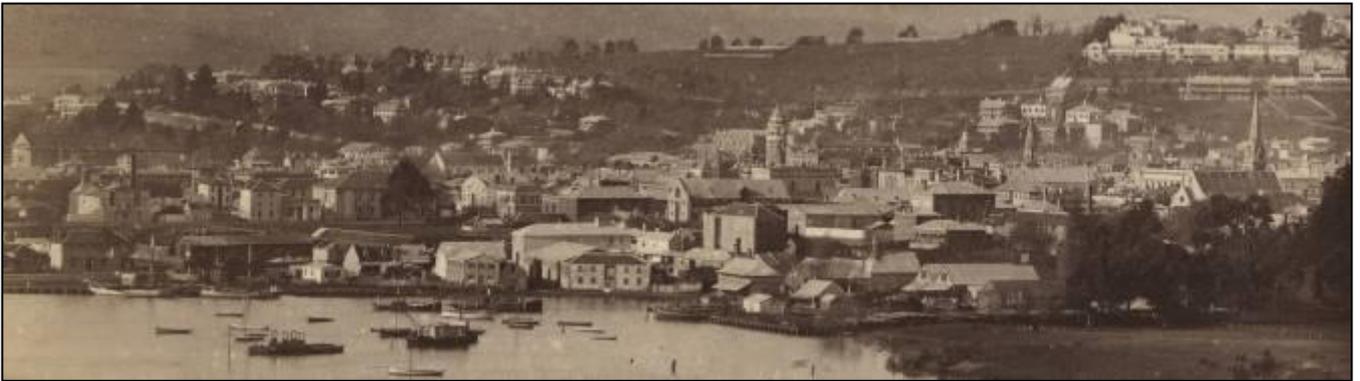


# Launceston Historical Society Inc.

*"Bringing together people with an interest in history"*

## Annual Report for year ending 31 December 2018



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 17 February 2019**

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## 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 2018.

## John West Memorial Lecture



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

On 16 March 2018 Professor Mark McKenna presented the 30<sup>th</sup> John West Memorial Lecture with the topic *Beyond the Crown: History and Australia's Republican Future*. The inspiring 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, Prof. McKenna was introduced by Professor Dominic

Geraghty from UTAS, and LHS Secretary Prue McCausland offered a vote of thanks.

This year the John West Memorial lecturer will be Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AC Governor of Tasmania – speaking on *Transportation re-visited: lessons for modern penal policy?* – at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania at Newnham on Friday 15 March 2019 at 8pm.

This prestigious event is held in partnership with the University of Tasmania.

## 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 2018 our guest speaker, John Dent, told us about the remarkable find of the Kings Meadows Convict Road Station. In April Nigel Burch gave a fascinating talk on the social history of Beaconsfield. Denis Lake presented an engaging talk on Peddle chairs in May. In June Dr Colin Chilvers presented the Seventh Pugh Day lecture on anaesthesia and overseas aid, and in July Dr Alison Alexander gave a riveting talk on the O'Connors of Connorville.

In August Steve Radford spoke about the life of Captain Bill Barrett. In September Evan Livingstone-Thomas presented a thought-provoking lecture on the history of archaeology. In October Karin Lê gave a talk on multiculturalism in Tasmania. We also celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday with a magnificent cake and bubbles. The final speaker for the year was Dr Stefan Petrow who delivered a graphic account of Tasmanian soldiers in World War One. 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 Bent Eared Records who looked after our audio-visual needs.

## 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 2018, 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; Sue McClarron, our Heritage Representative with the City of Launceston; Terry Neal; Rebecca Phillips; Karin Lê; Kelli Schultz; and one new member Bradley Wood.

Robyn Jones and Terry Neal are now stepping down from the Committee. Thank you both for your valuable contributions and enthusiasm, Robyn for seven years and Terry for five and a half.

## History Prize

To foster an interest in history amongst young people the Society awarded a total of \$995 in prize money to students in 2018.

The LHS History Prize for primary school students received 121 entries from four schools: Mowbray Heights and Exeter Primary Schools and St Thomas More's and Sacred Heart Catholic Primary Schools. Thank you to Carol Fuller, Kelli Schultz, Rebecca Phillips and Brad Wood for organising and judging the awards. Mayor Albert van Zetten presented book vouchers to the 12 winners and certificates to all students at the Town Hall on Thursday 29 November. The vouchers from Petrarch's Bookshop totalled \$495. The entries were displayed at the Launceston Library.

The Ratcliff Prize for History was not awarded this year due to our financial constraints.

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

## Excursions



**Inside Willow Court at New Norfolk.**



**Touring the garden at Strathmore, Nile.**

We held two fabulous excursions in 2018. The first was an overnight trip to **New Norfolk** in February. Some of our group had the opportunity to take part in an archaeological dig behind Frescati House. We all explored the sadly abandoned buildings of the Asylum complex – some older than Port Arthur and just as important in a historical context.

On our Spring excursion in November members visited the magnificent garden at **Strathmore**, John Glover's grave at the small chapel at **Deddington** and his home at **Patterdale** that is undergoing extensive renovations. Thank you to Sue Gillon and Carol Westmore for allowing us to explore these historic properties.

## **Archaeology Group**

Another archaeological excavation at Kerry Lodge under the leadership of Eleanor Casella and Angela McGowan took place in April 2018. Some exciting finds were uncovered, including the original 1835 convict workshops of the blacksmiths and stone cutters. Thank you to John Dent for organizing a team of LHS members to help with the dig, and for facilitating a couple of well-attended open days. John and a team also excavated the Kings Meadows Convict Road Station.

## **Community Outreach**

The Society has assisted individuals and community organisations in various ways throughout the year. Four articles by Marion Sargent have been published in *The Examiner's* quarterly magazine *Northern Exposure*. Several members have continued to write articles on various aspects of Launceston's past for the popular series 'Our History' in *The Sunday Examiner*. These now number more than 60. Some members have also spoken to community groups on a variety of history topics.

We were delighted when the new Government House sign was installed finally on 11 September 2018 on the site in City Park where it once stood.

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.

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

## **Membership**

The Historical Society had 182 financial members at the end of 2018. This included 51 new members, many of whom joined to take part in the Kerry Lodge dig. We raised our membership fees by a modest amount from January 2018. Since our first meeting in February 2018 we charge non-members \$4 to attend. This also encouraged more people to join our Society and enjoy the benefits. The popular raffle held each meeting since March has boosted our financial well-being. 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.

## **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 – and buying raffle tickets. We look forward to another great year in 2019.

Marion Sargent  
President 2018