

Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 170

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

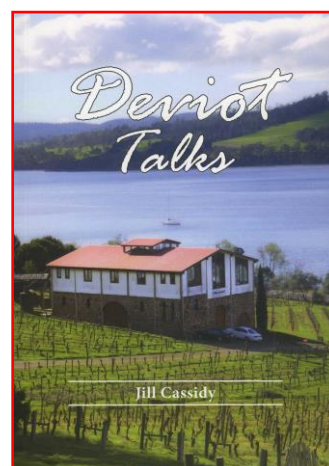
Bringing together people with an interest in history

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

Jill Cassidy, *Writing the history of Deviot*

In 2002 Jill Cassidy and her late husband Mike moved to Deviot and Jill immediately became interested in the history of the area. When she found very little written history she decided to hold a conference to get more information. The conference was successful but was largely focused on the 20th century. Notwithstanding the wonders of Trove, discovering information about the nineteenth century proved to be more difficult than she imagined, but a series of breakthroughs finally allowed her to write the first chapter of her book, *Deviot Talks*.

Jill Cassidy worked for 20 years in the History department of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery. On retirement she was made an Honorary Research Officer. She is President of Oral History Tasmania and Vice-President of Oral History Australia. *Christmas hamper raffle tickets 3 for \$5.*



**Mayor Albert van Zetten with Brad Wood, Kelli Schultz,
Marion Sargent and Carol Fuller.**

12th Primary History Prize Presentation

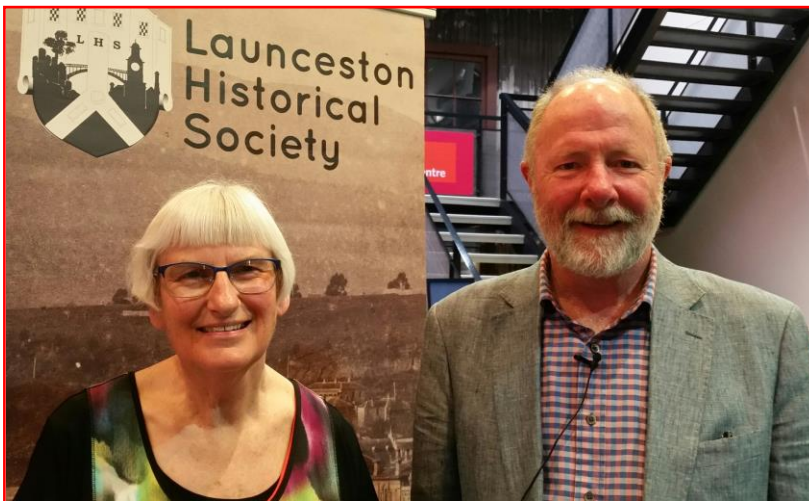
There were 114 entries from four schools – Mowbray Heights Primary School, Scotch Oakburn College, St Thomas More's, Sacred Heart and St Finn Barr's Catholic Schools. On 30 October 2019 Mayor Albert van Zetten handed out certificates, book vouchers from Petrarch's Bookshop, a volume of *Stories in Stone* and an LHS pencil to the 13 prize winners. This year UTAS teacher education students did the first level of judging and the History Prize sub-committee decided on the final winners. The first Rebecca Phillips Memorial Prize was awarded to Lulu Greig for her PowerPoint entry on "What became of Patterson's Plains?" The winning entries are on display at the Launceston Library until the end of November.



Marion Sargent, speaker at the August meeting.

Cataract Gorge History

On 18 August 2019 president Marion Sargent presented an illustrated talk to a packed house on a brief history of the Cataract Gorge. From the first recorded sighting in 1804, the talk covered flour mills, bridges, pathways, rustic shelters, caretaker's cottage, tea rooms, band rotundas, power station, the 1929 floods and the generous donation of land in 1943 that promised to protect the amenity of the First Basin and Cliff Grounds area.



President Marion Sargent with speaker Tony Marshall.

Edward Abbott Senior & Junior

On 15 September 2019 Tony Marshall gave a detailed presentation on the colonial saga of the two Edward Abbots. Abbott senior was Civil Commandant in Launceston from January 1826 and died at Government Cottage in July 1832. He is buried in the Cypress Street Cemetery next to the 210-acre grant of the Launceston Swamp which Abbott junior spent 28 years trying to claim compensation for after Gov. Arthur said the grant was invalid.



Melanie Morris with the October speaker Lynette Ross.

Government Cottage, City Park

Lynette Ross presented her paper on the "House that William built" on 20 October 2019. It was a summary of her forthcoming book on the fascinating history of Government Cottage that housed Commandants, Governors, visiting dignitaries, clergymen, women immigrants from the *Amelia Thompson*, and Horticultural Society exhibits from 1807 to 1847. Leased to private tenants from 1848, it was in a state of disrepair and demolished in 1885.

Launceston's first landscape gardener?

Launceston Advertiser, 4 January 1830, p. 1, col. 1

JAMES MORTON begs leave to inform the Public of Launceston and its vicinity that he will Sink Wells, Drain Lands, and Lay out Gardens on the most reasonable terms. Apply to J. M., at Mr Lidgerwood's, Paterson-street. January 1st, 1830.

Spring Excursion to Oatlands



On Monday 4 November we enjoyed the hospitality of the Oatlands District Historical Society at their excellent museum, with morning tea and a tour of the town by Peter Fielding. Brad, Alan and Michelle showed us the restored Commissariat Store and Heritage Hub, the Courthouse and Gaol with the relocated archway in its rightful place. Thank you, Steve and John for the highway commentary and our driver Terese.

Advance notice of LHS activities for 2020

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

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| 16 February | Mike McCausland , <i>William Lushington Goodwin, controversial publisher of the Cornwall Chronicle</i> |
| 13 March | John West Memorial Lecture, Prof. Tim McCormack (UTAS, Friday 8pm) |
| 19 April | John Dent & Darren Watton , <i>Kings Meadows Road Station</i> |
| 17 May | Derek Binns , <i>John Francis: royal assassin, Launceston builder</i> |
| 21 June | Dr Alicia Dennis , Pugh Day Lecture |
| 19 July | Dr Rebe Taylor , <i>Into the Heart of Tasmania. A search for human antiquity</i> |
| 16 August | Robert Smith , <i>William Henry Clayton: an amateur's perspective of the legacy of the architect in Tasmania and New Zealand</i> |
| 20 September | Dr Nic Haygarth , <i>Who killed the Tigers? A preliminary analysis of applicants for the Tasmanian thylacine bounty 1888–1909</i> |
| 18 October | Dr Andrew Byrne , <i>History of the RSPCA in Tasmania</i> |
| 2 November | Excursion to Waddamana (Monday long weekend) |
| 15 November | Duncan Grant , <i>Churches in Northern Tasmania part 2</i> |

Members' Column

New members: The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Catherine Marshall and Tom Treloggen

Membership Form + charge for visitors to attend meetings: A membership form is available on our website: [Membership Form.pdf](#). Sunday meetings are free for LHS members, and \$4 for visitors. Enjoy a delicious Christmas afternoon tea with bubbles and cake at the November meeting + hamper raffle, 3 for \$5.

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 |
|-----|-------------|------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 89 | 11 Aug 2019 | 34 | Catherine Pearce | Justice Van Diemen style | Hangings in Launceston |
| 90 | 18 Aug 2019 | 34 | Marion Sargent | A wilderness paradise lost | Woodpecker: Cataract Gorge |
| 91 | 25 Aug 2019 | 36 | Marion Sargent | A growing sense of style | Dutch garden, City Park |
| 92 | 1 Sep 2019 | 34 | Jenny Gill & Marion | Colony's ladies of letters | Mrs Allison's schools |
| 93 | 8 Sep 2019 | 34 | Julian Burgess | Tassie's textile champion | David Bruce, draper |
| 94 | 15 Sep 2019 | 34 | Julian Burgess | New tyre venture falls flat | Rapson Tyre Co. |
| 95 | 22 Sep 2019 | 34 | Julian Burgess | Pioneer's drive to succeed | Fred Paine, carriage builder |
| 96 | 29 Sep 2019 | 34 | Julian Burgess | A fusion of science and art | QVMAG history |
| 97 | 6 Oct 2019 | 30 | Mike McCausland | Press freedoms under fire | Freedom of the Press in VDL |
| 98 | 13 Oct 2019 | 30 | Mike McCausland | Satire a weapon of choice | <i>Cornwall Chronicle</i> |
| 99 | 20 Oct 2019 | 32 | Mike McCausland | Colony's moderating voice | <i>The Launceston Examiner</i> |
| 100 | 27 Oct 2019 | 34 | Prue McCausland | Providing a fuller picture | <i>The Weekly Courier</i> |
| 101 | 3 Nov 2019 | 34 | Marion Sargent | A delight for music lovers | Cataract Gorge bandstands |
| 102 | 10 Nov 2019 | 34 | Jenny Gill | Life and times of Batten St | Batten Street, Launceston |
| 103 | 17 Nov 2019 | | Tahlia Muller (SOC) | | Duck Reach Power Station |

Other items and events of interest

George Town & District Historical Society: At the Bass & Flinders Centre, George Town at 7pm:

18 Nov 2019, Members, "In their own words" 1821 George Town, taken from Commissioner Bigge's Report.

2019 Founders Festival: Monday 11, 18 & 25 November "In their footsteps" a guided walk around historic George Town. Starts at 10am outside the Watch House.

Email: info@qtdhs.com.

Tasmanian Historical Research Association: Meetings take place in the Legacy Function Rooms, 159 Macquarie Street, Hobart on the second Tuesday of each month at 8pm.

12 Nov 2019, Brendan Lennard, *Beaumaris Zoo*; 10 Dec 2019, Mary Ramsay, *Dr Agnew of Hobart*.

Website: <http://www.thra.org.au>; Email: info@thra.org.au.

Launceston Historical Society

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|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
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Deadline

Items for the next *Newsletter* should be sent to the editor by **1 Feb 2020** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.

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