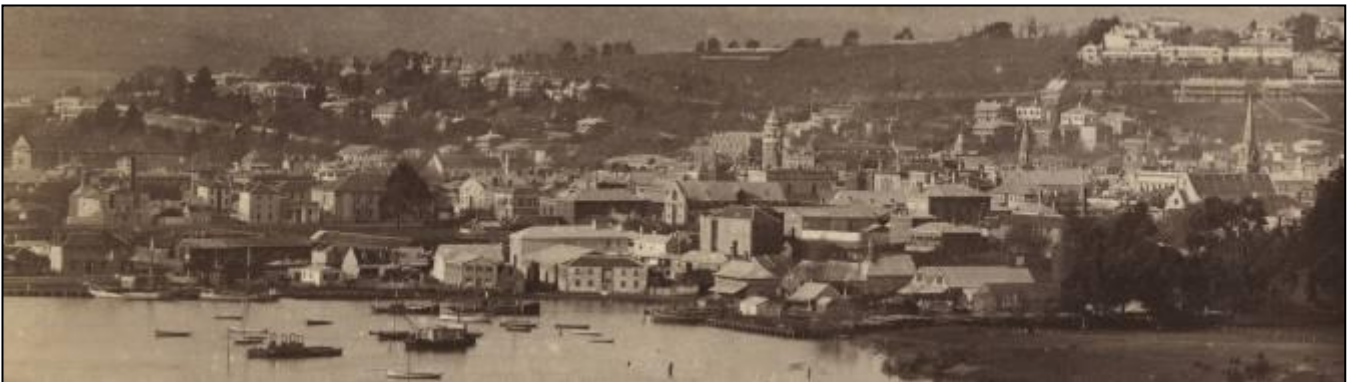


Launceston Historical Society Inc.

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

Annual Report for year ending 31 December 2019



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 16 February 2020**

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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 2019.

John West Memorial Lecture



The Governor, Kate Warner, with Committee members Sue, Prue, Leonie, Marion, Wendy, Karin, Sue and Kelli.

On 15 March 2019 Her Excellency, the Honourable Kate Warner, Governor of Tasmania presented the 31st John West Memorial Lecture with the topic *Transportation re-visited: lessons for modern penal policy?* 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, Her Excellency 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 Tim McCormack, Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Tasmania – speaking on *a topic to be advised* – at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania at Newnham on Friday 13 March 2020 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 presented papers at our monthly Sunday meetings. After the Annual General Meeting in February 2019 our guest speaker, Brad Williams, told us about the restoration of the military precinct at Oatlands. In April Maureen Martin Ferris gave a fascinating account of the life of Louisa Anne Meredith and in May John Dent presented an informative talk on convict road stations. In June Professor Paul Myles presented the Eighth Pugh Day lecture on the vexed history of laughing gas, and in July Duncan Grant gave an illustrated talk on churches of Northern Tasmania.

In August Marion Sargent spoke on the history of the Cataract Gorge and September saw Tony Marshall recount the saga of the two Edward Abbots. In October Lynette Ross read a paper on Government Cottage in City Park. The final speaker for the year was Jill Cassidy who delivered a talk on writing the history of Deviot. The Christmas meeting ended with a glass of bubbles and Christmas fare, including a Christmas cake made by our member Tony Henricks.

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 2019, the following committee members were elected: Marion Sargent, President; Kelli Schultz, Vice-President; Leonie Prevost, Treasurer; Prue McCausland, Correspondence Secretary and Catherine Pearce, Minute Secretary.

The other committee members were Sue McClarron, our representative on the City of Launceston Heritage Advisory Committee; Karin Lê; Bradley Wood and three new recruits Susan Bell, Wendy Roberts and Carol Fuller. Rebecca Phillips was re-elected, but unbeknown to us sadly died the day before the AGM.

Sue McClarron resigned from the committee in August after more than seven years of valuable service. Wendy Roberts has taken on the role of the Heritage Committee representative.

History Prize

To foster an interest in history amongst young people the Society awarded a total of \$1,027 in prize money to students in 2019.

The LHS History Prize for primary school students received 114 entries from five schools: Mowbray Heights Primary School, St Thomas More's, Sacred Heart and St Finn Barr's Catholic Primary Schools and Scotch Oakburn College. Thank you to Kelli Schultz, Carol Fuller and Brad Wood for organising and judging the awards. This year UTAS teacher education students did the first level of judging supervised by Louise Zarmati.

Mayor Albert van Zetten presented book vouchers to the 13 winners and certificates to all students at the Town Hall on 30 October 2019. The first of four \$50 Rebecca Phillips Memorial Prizes was awarded to Lulu Greig. The vouchers from Petrarch's Bookshop totalled \$527. The entries were displayed at the Launceston Library.

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

Spring Excursion to Oatlands



Margaret, Judy, Doreen and Barbara.



Inside the restored Commissariat Store.

On our Spring excursion on 4 November 2019 a bus load of members visited the historic midlands town of Oatlands. We enjoyed morning tea and a tour of the town courtesy of the Oatlands District Historical Society. Brad Williams explained the restoration of the Commissariat Store and Heritage Hub while Alan and Michelle showed us the Courthouse and Gaol precincts. Steve Radford and John Dent told us tales about the places we passed on the way down and back while Terese Binns drove the Veterans and Community Bus.

Archaeology Group

The LHS archaeology group, convened by John Dent, consists of LHS members with an interest in the archaeology of the Launceston area. In the past we have volunteered on an archaeological dig at the Kerry Lodge Probation Station. From time to time emails are sent to group members with news about archaeological projects in the Launceston area. We are continuing to look at opportunities where volunteers can become involved in archaeological projects.

Community Outreach

The Society has assisted individuals and community organisations in various ways throughout the year. Four articles by Marion Sargent were published in *The Examiner's* quarterly magazine *Northern Exposure* on the topics of Nile, Corra Linn, Macquarie House and the Post Office clock. Several members have continued to write articles on various aspects of Launceston's past for the popular series 'Our History' in *The Sunday Examiner*. At the end of December 2019 these numbered 109 and are continuing to be written and published. Some members have also spoken to community groups on a variety of history topics.

Committee members conducted three walking tours of City Park in 2019. On 3 March four of us entertained up to 40 conference delegates from the International Farm Management Association. Wendy and Marion enjoyed a Tamar Garden Club outing on 28 May and again on 7 August conducted a history walk for Home Educators and their children.

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 174 financial members at the end of 2019, including 19 new members. We have had some full houses at our meetings this year. Three of our members sadly passed away in 2019 – Rebecca Phillips, Billie Eastoe and Bobbie Childs. The popular raffle held each meeting 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. Kelli Schultz' daughter Nienna updated our logo with a crisper, more modern look.

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 fantastic year in 2020.

Marion Sargent
President 2019