

# Launceston Historical Society Inc.

## Newsletter No 171

February 2020

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

*Bringing together people with an interest in history*

### Annual General Meeting + Mike McCausland

**Sunday 16 February 2020 – 2pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk**

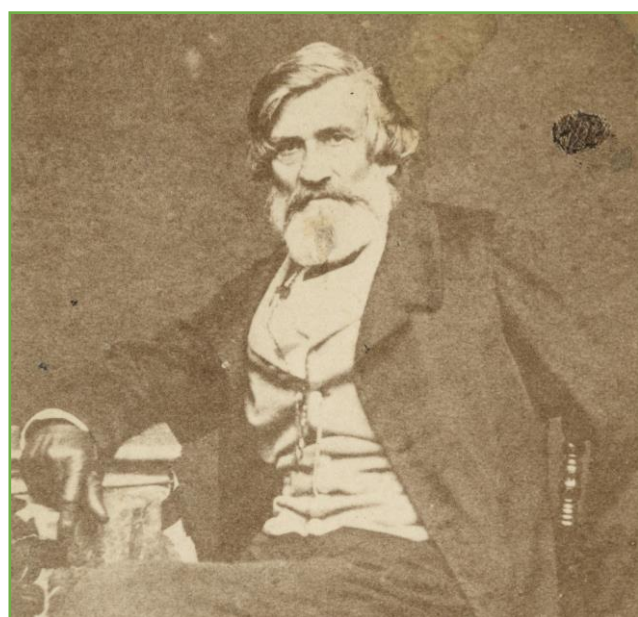
Welcome to another year of history! **The 2020 AGM** will begin at 2pm. All eleven positions on the Executive: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and seven Committee Members will be declared vacant. The ten existing committee members and one new committee member have nominated to help run the Society's active and vibrant program, so no further nominations are required.

A PowerPoint show of the past year's activities will be shown before the AGM starts. The Primary History Prize entries will be on display in the meeting room.

Don't forget to bring your LHS re-usable cup for afternoon tea or buy one on the day. They are \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members. We will have some great raffle prizes too!

**Guest Speaker, Mike McCausland:**

***William Lushington Goodwin, controversial publisher of the Cornwall Chronicle***



WL Goodwin had a colourful and varied career, with at least three distinct stages: seaman and ship's captain, then a controversial Launceston newspaper proprietor and editor, and finally a responsible – perhaps almost respectable – public figure whose indiscretions were largely forgiven.

Goodwin claimed in the *Cornwall Chronicle* to be exposing corruption and abuse of power, but to many he was a turbulent, at times violent man given to using his editorial columns for bitter personal attacks upon those with prestige and authority.

This mismatch between stated principles and practice are repeated in the inconsistencies between accounts he gave of his achievements and the reality. This talk attempts to separate fact from claim in the light of evidence now available, acknowledging that there's much more to be learned of this contradictory, but not wholly unattractive figure from Launceston's past.

As a member of the community group Friends of the Launceston Mechanics' Institute, Mike McCausland has been involved in the attempt to preserve and publicise the LMI's library, collected between 1842 and 1945, and now recognised as of national significance. His interest in WL Goodwin was piqued by the *Cornwall Chronicle*'s barrage of invective against the fledgling Institute and its proponents.

# The 32<sup>nd</sup> John West Memorial Lecture

**Professor Tim McCormack**

## ***The Notion of Humanity as a Constraint on the Conduct of War***

**Friday 13 March 2020 – 8pm**

**Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania, Newnham.**



### **Biography**

Tim McCormack is Professor of Law and Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Tasmania. He is also Special Adviser on International Humanitarian Law to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, honorary Professorial Fellow at Melbourne Law School, inaugural DFAT Visiting Legal Fellow (appointed jointly with Assoc Prof Anthea Roberts from ANU), New Zealand Law Foundation Distinguished Visiting Fellow and a Director of World Vision Australia. Tim was also appointed a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law in 2010.

See <https://www.utas.edu.au/profiles/staff/law/Tim-McCormack>

## **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.**

<b>19 April</b>	<b>John Dent &amp; Darren Watton</b> , <i>Kings Meadows Road Station</i>
<b>17 May</b>	<b>Derek Binns</b> , <i>John Francis: Royal assassin, Launceston builder</i>
<b>21 June</b>	<b>Dr Alicia Dennis</b> , Pugh Day Lecture
<b>19 July</b>	<b>Dr Rebe Taylor</b> , <i>Into the Heart of Tasmania. A search for human antiquity</i>
<b>16 August</b>	<b>Robert Smith</b> , <i>William Henry Clayton: an amateur's perspective of the legacy of the architect in Tasmania and New Zealand</i>
<b>20 September</b>	<b>Dr Nic Haygarth</b> , <i>Who killed the Tigers? A preliminary analysis of applicants for the Tasmanian thylacine bounty 1888–1909</i>
<b>18 October</b>	<b>Dr Andrew Byrne</b> , <i>History of the RSPCA in Tasmania</i>
<b>2 November</b>	<b>Excursion to Waddamana Power Station Museum</b> (Monday long weekend)
<b>15 November</b>	<b>Duncan Grant</b> , <i>Churches in Northern Tasmania part 2</i>

## **Membership Renewals**

Annual subscriptions for the Launceston Historical Society were due on 31 December 2019. The Membership Form is on our website. Pay directly into the Society's CBA bank account BSB 067-003 A/C No. 2804 8638 (put your name in the reference field), by cheque or cash. Please email your details to [launcestonhistory@gmail.com](mailto:launcestonhistory@gmail.com), or hand the form to Leonie Prevost at the next meeting, or post to:  
Treasurer, Launceston Historical Society, PO Box 1296, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250



## Writing the history of Deviot

On 17 November 2019 Jill Cassidy presented a fascinating talk on the history of Deviot on the West Tamar between Batman Bridge and the Supply River, named after the property *Daviot* granted to Captain McLeod who had built a hut south of a creek near Miserable (or Rocky) Islet. It was here that Henry Reed, cold, wet and exhausted, stumbled to safety after his boat overturned at Swan Point. Saltworks, ship building, brickmaking and orchards followed. Pictured on the left are Catherine Pearce and Jill Cassidy at the Christmas celebration.



## Our raffles – a great fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who buys raffle tickets at our meetings. And thank you also to the generous donations from authors of books, the committee and other members for wine and goodies for the Easter and Christmas raffles. We made a profit of \$1,320.55 in 2019. This, along with the \$4 admission for non-members has seen a great improvement to our finances. Photo: Selling Christmas raffle tickets are Kelli Schultz, Prue McCausland, Brad Wood and Sue Bell.

## Members' Column

**New members:** The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Nigel Burch, Bill Carney, Ruth Cuff, Linda Hawes and Shane How.

**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.

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



Kelli Schultz, Carol Fuller and Marion Sargent.

## Community Recognition Award

Congratulations to Carol Fuller, an LHS committee member, who received the City of Launceston Citizen Award from the mayor Albert van Zetten at the Town Hall on 24 January 2020. Carol volunteers with the Zonta Club, the White Ribbon committee and the Children's Book Council. She has been involved with our Society since 2007 as treasurer for five years and as an organiser of the Primary History Prize.

Information about the 2020 History Prize will be available soon on our website. We encourage students from grades 3 to 6 to enter a piece of historical research presented in a variety of formats.



## 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
103	17 Nov 2019	34	Tahlia Muller (SOC)	Hydro power to the people	Duck Reach Power Station
104	24 Nov 2019	32	Geoff McLean	Icon's cultural revolution	Princess Theatre
105	1 Dec 2019	34	Nigel Burch	Tasmania's favourite son	Sir Richard Dry
106	8 Dec 2019	36	Julian Burgess	Store a touch of Tiffany's	F. & W. Stewart, jewellers
107	15 Dec 2019	36	Nigel Burch	Getting the state on track	Beginning of railways in Tas
108	22 Dec 2019	26	Marion Sargent	A Christmas retail rescue	Christmas in Launceston 1919
109	29 Dec 2019	22	Nigel Burch	The birth of Beaconsfield	How Beaconsfield began
110	5 Jan 2020	22	Nigel Burch	A town of hopes long lost	Lisle: the town that vanished
111	12 Jan 2020	24	Nigel Burch	Wonder of the wilderness	Pipers River tram
112	19 Jan 2020	22	Nigel Burch	Tasmania's own iron age	West Tamar iron industry
113	26 Jan 2020	32	Nigel Burch	State in a league of its own	Anti-Transportation League
114	2 Feb 2020		Prue McCausland		Pickwick Papers

## Other items and events of interest

The annual **Friends of the Library Book Sale** will be held on Saturday 14 March at St Ailbe's Hall, Margaret Street, Launceston from 9am to 1pm. There will be thousands of good quality books, DVDs and CDs at bargain prices. Money raised will support services and activities at Launceston and other nearby libraries.

Books are sorted into categories including Tasmanian, Collectables, History, Travel, Art, Literature, War etc. Fiction categories include Crime, Romance/Sagas, Fantasy and Children's books.

Come early or miss out!

**George Town & District Historical Society:** 10 Feb 2020, Hillwood Public Hall 7.30, Tony Walker, *The development of the wine industry*; 16 Mar 2020, Tam O'Shanter Golf & Community Club, Rita Miller, *Spies at Pipers River*. Website: [www.gtdhs.com](http://www.gtdhs.com); Email: [info@gtdhs.com](mailto:info@gtdhs.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. 11 Feb 2020, John Stephenson, *A virtual tour of colonial Hobart Town*; 10 Mar 2020, Alison Alexander, *Max Angus and Patricia Giles*. Website: <http://www.thra.org.au>; Email: [info@thra.org.au](mailto:info@thra.org.au).

### Launceston Historical Society

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## Deadline

Items for the next *News/letter* should be sent to the editor by **1 Apr 2020** 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.

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