

Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 172

April 2020

ISSN 1036-7950

PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Bringing together people with an interest in history

Welcome to the Committee Members for 2020

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 16 February 2020. John Dent took the Chair while the new committee for 2020 was elected.

Marion Sargent was re-appointed President for her ninth term. The other executive committee members are Kelli Schultz (Vice-President), Leonie Prevost (Treasurer and Public Officer), Prue McCausland (Correspondence Secretary), Catherine Pearce (Minute Secretary). The re-elected committee members are Karin Lê, Brad Wood, Sue Bell, Wendy Roberts and Carol Fuller. We welcome one new recruit, James Smith. Thank you to Sue McClarron who has stepped down from the Committee.

The 2019 Annual Report can be read online: <http://launcestonhistory.org.au/publications/annual-reports/>



William Lushington Goodwin

After the AGM on 16 February Mike McCausland spoke on the life of Mr Goodwin. Born in Kent in 1798 he became a master mariner, claiming that he served in the Royal Navy, but there is no evidence of that. In 1831 he arrived in Sydney with 120 female convicts on the *Kains*, he managed to wreck the ship on the way out of the Tamar River in September that year and decided to stay in Launceston. The next phase of his life was as a newspaperman. Goodwin edited the *Cornwall Chronicle* from 14 February 1835, promising that "personality, scurrility, or abuse shall never disgrace our journal." He broke those promises, sparring with other newspapers and lampooning anyone in authority. He copied political cartoons from *Bell's Life* from 1836 to 1838, claiming he was the engraver. In later life Goodwin took on a public role, becoming a councillor, a Member of Parliament, Justice of the Peace and Magistrate. He died in August 1862. Mike is pictured with Marion Sargent.

Membership Renewals for those who have not paid

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, or hand the form to Leonie Prevost at the next meeting, or post to:
Treasurer, Launceston Historical Society, PO Box 1296, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250



The 32nd John West Memorial Lecture, held at UTAS on Friday 13 March by Professor Tim McCormack, Dean of Law at UTAS on *The Notion of Humanity as a Constraint on the Conduct of War* was excellent. He spoke about the emergence of the notion of humanity in war and the development of the rules of war from the mid-19th century.

President Marion Sargent was MC, Professor Dominic Geraghty from UTAS introduced Prof. McCormack and Secretary Prue McCausland offered a vote of thanks. Numbers were down to 58 this year due to the coronavirus outbreak.

City Park Radio broadcast the lecture on 23 March, and the podcast is on their web site under Community Stories. A link to the livestreaming of the lecture is on the UTAS and LHS websites.

Professor McCormack is pictured delivering the lecture. (Photo: Louise Zarmati)

LHS activities for 2020

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

However, due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) the **meetings in red have been postponed**. It may be necessary to cancel or postpone further talks, but we will wait and see how long this pandemic takes to run its course.

In the meantime, isolate and stay safe. Earlier talks are being uploaded to our website, so catch up on ones you missed or listen to them again: <http://launcestonhistory.org.au/lhs-lecture-series/>

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 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 | Nigel Burch , <i>Sir Richard Dry, our greatest hero</i> |
| 2 November | Excursion to Waddamana Power Station Museum (Monday long weekend) |
| 15 November | Duncan Grant , <i>Churches in Northern Tasmania part 2</i> |

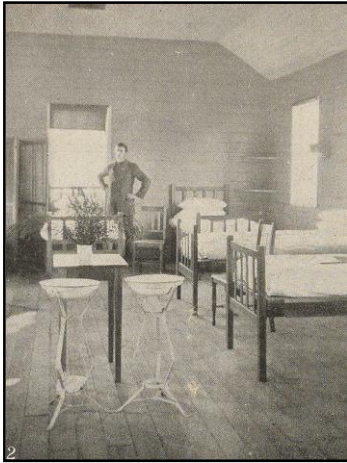
Members' Column

New members: The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Mary Greenfield, Carmel Jones, Jordana Lory, Shirley Patton and Tony Webb.

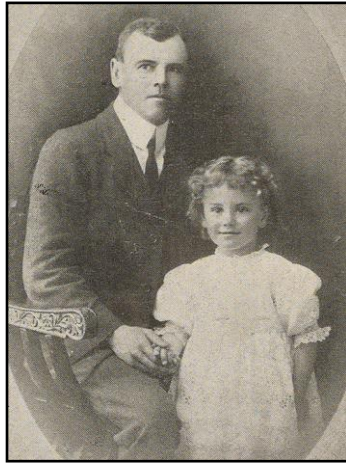
Membership Form + charge for visitors to attend meetings: A membership form is available on our website: [Membership Form.pdf](#). Sunday meetings are free for LHS members, and \$4 for visitors.

LHS Archaeology Group: Contact John Dent: john.dent@pda.com.au

Influenza Epidemic 1919



Verulam isolation ward.
WC 10 Jul 1919



Dr RC Irvine died 26 Aug.
WC 28 Aug 1919



Albert Hall relief kitchen. WC 18 Sep 1919

Mercury, Saturday 23 August 1919, page 5

LAUNCESTON. FURTHER PNEUMONIC CASES REPORTED. FIVE DOCTORS ILL.

Dr. Charles Irvine, whose case of illness was yesterday diagnosed as pneumonic influenza, is still in a serious condition. His residence has been isolated. Two other cases of pneumonia influenza were reported during the day, one a child twelve months old at the General Hospital, and the other a girl of ten years at a private residence. Both were conveyed to the Verulam Hospital by the motor-ambulance. There is another suspicious case under investigation.

It has been arranged that the doctor from the troopship *Frankfurt*, which arrived in Hobart last night, shall come up to Launceston immediately, and take charge of the Verulam Hospital. There are now five of the local doctors ill.

Many new cases were reported during the day, and probably, all told, some 500 people are now affected. Good work is being done by the relief depot at the Albert Hall, but more helpers are urgently required. Nurse Searle and Mrs. Muschamp, assisted by Miss Wilkinson visited 10 patients yesterday, and 80 new cases today, extending from King's Meadows nearly out to Mowbray. The Council has provided two motor-cars to enable the visits to be expeditiously made. Cooking appliances, comprising gas stoves and a boiler, have been installed at the Albert Hall. Mrs. Robson is in charge of this department, which is providing needful supplies to distressed persons.

Messrs R. E. Lee (East Launceston), Walter Wright (Invermay), and A G Waterworth (Glen Dhu), State school headmasters, attended and look charge of the organisation at the Albert Hall today. Boy Scouts were employed in carrying messages, and otherwise assisting.

The Chief Inspector of Health (Mr. J Riley) is in Launceston to meet the s s Wainui upon her arrival here from Melbourne tomorrow morning, to make arrangements regarding the surveillance of passengers. The vessel is expected to reach the wharf between 8 and 9 o'clock.

Examiner, Tuesday 7 October 1919, page 7

A CLEAN CITY.

"We can now reasonably say that Launceston is a clean city," remarked the Mayor (Alderman G. Shields) at yesterday's council meeting in referring to the influenza epidemic. He considered that not only Launceston, but the state as a whole, was extremely fortunate in having fought the scourge with such a measure of success. Their best thanks were due to the hospital staffs, and the band of voluntary workers, for the splendid assistance rendered by them during the epidemic. Mr. Storrer deprecated the reports spread by people that several fresh cases had occurred and said that an example should be made of anyone caught issuing false rumours. Mr. Sadler said they were indebted to the Mayor, Messrs. Storrer and Hart, for excellent work rendered by them throughout the epidemic, also to all voluntary helpers. He moved - "That they be accorded a hearty vote of thanks." Mr. Ockerby seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Our History

These stories on Launceston's history have been contributed by our members. You are welcome to send articles of 470 words, with at least three pictures, to the president marionsargent@bigpond.com. Read the stories in *The Sunday Examiner* or on [Facebook](#). Note the changed requirements.

No	Date	Page	Author	Title	Topic
114	2 Feb 2020	24	Prue McCausland	A very Dickensian deceit	Pirated Pickwick Papers
115	9 Feb 2020	24	Nigel Burch	Asbestos industry of WWI	West Tamar asbestos industry
116	16 Feb 2020	22	Nigel Burch	Rail arrives with a boom	North-East railway
117	23 Feb 2020	22	Julian Burgess	Tassie aviation takes off	Miss Flinders aeroplane
118	1 Mar 2020	20	Nigel Burch	Nixon's grand bucolic plan	Christ's college
119	8 Mar 2020	22	Nigel Burch	Exeter's equine emperor	William J Southerwood
120	15 Mar 2020	19	Nigel Burch	Paterson our most reluctant governor	The Rum Rebellion and York Town
121	22 Mar 2020	39	Marion Sargent	Tyranny of distance no protection	Influenza epidemic 1919
122	29 Mar 2020		Jenny Gill	Chronicler followed the family passion for Tasmania's past	Mary Whitfeld, historian
123	5 Apr 2020		Nigel Burch		History of Dilston
124	12 Apr 2020		Marion Sargent		Easter holidays in 1920
125	19 Apr 2020		Nigel Burch		Our pioneer women

Other items and events of interest

National Trust Heritage Festival 2020: The theme "This Place Matters" is going online in May.

George Town & District Historical Society: Meetings have been postponed until further notice. John Watts, *Lancaster 385 – the crew and missions – 75th anniversary*; Peter Cox, *The Tamar Estuary*. Website: www.gtdhs.com; Email: info@gtdhs.com.

Tasmanian Historical Research Association: Meetings have been cancelled but may be heard on podcasts: <http://www.thra.org.au>. Rebecca Read, *Urban assignment: the allocation of convicts to homes and businesses in Hobart Town, 1830-1835*; Rebe Taylor, *The impossible science of race, blood quota and extinction in Tasmania*. Email: info@thra.org.au.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria: Listen to interesting podcasts of historical lectures here: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/resources/lecture-podcasts/>

Launceston Historical Society

President and Newsletter Editor	Marion Sargent	0438 432 848 or 6331 4890
Vice-President	Kelli Schultz	0408 080 967
Correspondence Secretary	Prue McCausland	6327 2540
Treasurer	Leonie Prevost	0418 575 910
Publicity Officer	Karin Lê	0407 340 179 or 6334 0158

Postal address: PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Email: launcestonhistory@gmail.com Website: www.launcestonhistory.org.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/launcestonhistory>

Deadline

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