

Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 175

November 2020

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Bringing together people with an interest in history



Chris Tassell provided a guided tour of the Waddamana Power Station to Historical Society excursionists.
(Photo: Rod Oliver)

Spring Excursion to Waddamana

A bus and seven carloads of LHS members made their way, via Poatina, to the Waddamana A Power Station in the highlands of Tasmania on Sunday 1 November. Blessed with a beautiful sunny day we thoroughly enjoyed listening to the information that Chris Tassell imparted about the history of the first hydro scheme to be run by the Hydro Electric Commission. We wandered around the grounds, some ventured into the remains of the village, and we were all fascinated by the items in the museum. After a picnic lunch we headed down to Bothwell for a short break and drove slowly through Jericho on the way back to Launceston. Steve Radford provided an interesting commentary and notes about the power station and properties along the route while Terese Binns once again drove the Veterans and Community bus.

Ida McAulay turned the first sod for the Great Lake scheme in December 1910. Waddamana Power Station was commissioned in May 1916 after many difficulties were overcome.



History Prize

13th Primary History Prize Presentation

There were 29 entries from four schools – Mowbray Heights, Invermay and Glen Dhu Primary Schools, and Sacred Heart Catholic School. The usual presentation ceremony in the Town Hall was not held this year, but each school recognised the students in their own assemblies. Every child received a certificate of participation, a volume of *Stories in Stone* by Anne Green and an LHS pencil. The 11 prize winners were presented also with book vouchers totalling \$520 from Petrarch's Bookshop. The History Prize sub-committee of Kelli Schultz, Carol Fuller and Brad Wood judged the entries. The second Rebecca Phillips Memorial Prize of \$50 was awarded to Nina Brandenburg for her excellent project on why the Thylacines became extinct. The winning entries will be displayed at the Launceston Library from 7 December until January 2021.

LHS Activities for 2021

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.

Due to the coronavirus most of the meetings scheduled for 2020 have been transferred to the same month in 2021. To be COVID-safe, the Museum meeting room can accommodate 70 people only, and we cannot serve afternoon tea. Next year you will need to book to attend lectures in person or register to watch the live stream at home via Zoom. More details will be in the next Newsletter and in email notifications.

21 February	AGM + Nigel Burch , <i>Sir Richard Dry, our greatest hero</i>
12 March	Dr Eric Ratcliff , John West Memorial Lecture, <i>John West's Launceston, and where it went</i> (Friday, 8pm at UTAS)
18 April	John Dent & Darren Watton , <i>Kings Meadows Road Station</i>
16 May	Derek Binns , <i>John Francis: Royal assassin, Launceston builder</i>
20 June	Dr Alicia Dennis , Pugh Day Lecture
18 July	TBA
15 August	Robert Smith , <i>William Henry Clayton: an amateur's perspective of the legacy of the architect in Tasmania and New Zealand</i>
19 September	Dr Nic Haygarth , <i>Who killed the Tigers? A preliminary analysis of applicants for the Tasmanian thylacine bounty 1888–1909</i>
17 October	Nigel Burch , TBA
1 November	Excursion to Swansea (Monday long weekend)
21 November	TBA

Earlier talks are available on our website, so catch up on ones you missed or listen to them again: <http://launcestonhistory.org.au/lhs-lecture-series/>

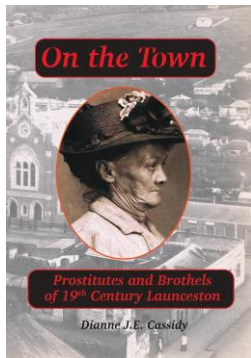
Because we have not been able to offer our usual program this year memberships will be rolled over until 2021. Financial members will be given first offer of a seat at the Meeting Room.

Members' Column

New members: The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Linda Clark, Garry Connelly, David Downie, Robert Dusting, Bernice Kelly, Meryl Kopriva, Chris Lee & Penny Royal Adventures, Amanda Richardson.

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. As the majority of the Sunday Lectures were postponed in 2020, memberships will be rolled over to 2021.

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



On The Town: Prostitutes and Brothels of 19th Century Launceston by our member Dianne Cassidy

Drawing on the real experiences of women who lived 'on the town' in nineteenth century Launceston, this book reveals a dark underbelly of prostitution and crime. Taken together, these previously untold stories paint a vivid picture of the struggle for survival in society's lowest ranks.

This meticulously researched history book costs \$25 collected from Launceston (postage extra). Michelle O'Byrne noted the importance of this book in Parliament.

Email address for enquiries: onthetown7250@gmail.com

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.

We are preparing a book with 100 of these stories, each with a photograph – more information to come.

No	Date	Page	Author	Title	Topic
141	9 Aug 2020	21	Nigel Burch	Sea captain's dream of scholastic success failed to stay afloat	Horton College, Ross
142	16 Aug 2020	17	Nigel Burch	Launceston students had their very own fantastic Miss Fox	Mary Fox & MLC
143	23 Aug 2020	23	Marion Sargent	An art deco delight was a luxurious hub of modern cinema	Plaza Theatre
144	30 Aug 2020	23	Nigel Burch	Town was victim of genuine gold digger	Mark Lewis Henn
145	6 Sep 2020	17	Catherine Pearce	People power made cradle of wilderness true global treasure	Cradle Mt meeting at LMI
146	13 Sep 2020	21	Rod Oliver	Behind the lens ... the adventures of a city's intrepid shutterbugs	Northern Tasmanian CC
147	20 Sep 2020	41	Nigel Burch	Colourful company painted the state red ... yellow ... green	Turpentine Paints
148	27 Sep 2020	42	Nigel Burch	Green a man of unparalleled principles	Richard Green
149	4 Oct 2020	17	Nigel Burch	Lilydale's rise a study in persistence and community spirit	Lilydale
150	11 Oct 2020	17	Nigel Burch	Indomitable Mary Cox took the reins	Mary Ann Cox, entrepreneur
151	18 Oct 2020	21	Rod Oliver	Club still committed to the community	History of the Launceston Rotary Club
152	25 Oct 2020	21	Marion Sargent	Helen Reddy's Tasmanian connections	Max and Helen Reddy
153	1 Nov 2020	51	Nigel Burch	Furore at Frankford divided the town	A feud at Frankford
154	8 Nov 2020	21	Nigel Burch	Fraud and theft at heart of a sacred scandal in gold town	A brawl at Beaconsfield
155	15 Nov 2020	29	Jenny Gill	Dry answered the Tasmanian calling	Rev. William Dry
156	22 Nov 2020	21	Nigel Burch	Gems bedazzled London's legal eagles	Killiecrankie's day in court
157	29 Nov 2020	21	Kelli Schultz	Union at forefront in fight for political rights of women	WCTU & women's suffrage

Vale Noel Shaw

Members were saddened to read of Noel Shaw's death on 13 November 2020. Noel was a founding member of this Society. At a public meeting at the Town Hall on 25 October 1988 he moved the resolution put by the Mayor, Ald. Tsinoglou, that the Launceston Historical Society be formed. Noel was a member of the inaugural committee and maintained an interest in the Society for many years.

Robert Dusting and Sotherton



New member Robert Dusting kindly provided a guided tour of his amazing 1930's home *Sotherton*, Brisbane Street to the LHS committee. Originally built for Dr Clifford Craig, the house has doors, windows, mantlepieces and bricks from the old Club Hotel. Robert has restored the house to its former glory and has filled it with collectables of all sorts, each with its own story.

THRA Lecture

Tasmanian Historical Research Association: Tuesday, 8 December 2020, 8.00pm, Legacy Function Rooms, 159 Macquarie St, Hobart. Brian Rieusset, *Incarceration – Campbell Street Prisoners Barracks, Gaol and Penitentiary Chapel*.

Launceston Historical Society

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Deadline

Items for the next *Newsletter* should be sent to the editor by **1 Feb 2021** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.

Kindly printed by the office of Peter Gutwein MP

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