

# Launceston Historical Society Inc.

## Newsletter No 176

February 2021

ISSN 1036-7950

PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

*Bringing together people with an interest in history*

### Annual General Meeting + Nigel Burch

**Sunday 21 February 2021 – 2pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk**

Welcome to another year of history! Now that we can once again meet in person and carry on with our lecture program, we are looking forward to the **2021 AGM** on Sunday 21 February starting at 2pm.

Bookings are essential as numbers are limited due to continuing COVID restrictions. Either email [launcestonhistory@gmail.com](mailto:launcestonhistory@gmail.com) or phone the secretary Prue McCausland on 03 6327 2540 to register. Visitors who are not members of the Society are welcome to attend but are charged \$4 each.

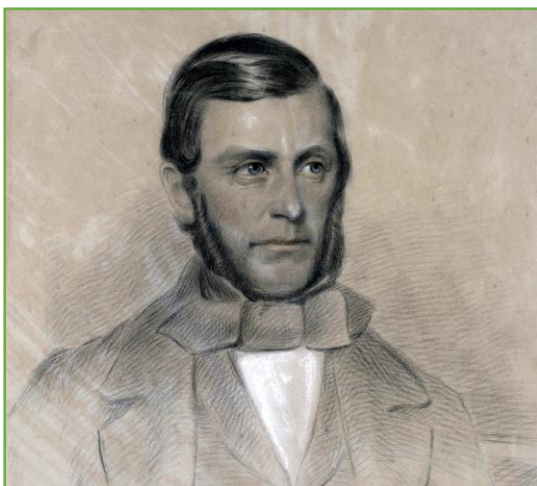
To streamline procedures please provide the following details when you register by email or phone: names of all guests, phone numbers, do you have the COVIDSafe App, postcode, are you an LHS member. The Museum has asked us to keep the list for a limited time in case we need to contact you.

The meeting will be livestreamed on Zoom. A link will be provided to members with email closer to the date.

All eleven positions on the Executive: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and seven Committee Members will be declared vacant. All the current committee members are happy to stay on for another year, so no further nominations are required.

No afternoon tea will be served, but we will still have some great raffle prizes for you to win!

As we did not hold most of our usual lectures last year members who were financial in 2020 will not need to renew their membership for 2021.



### Guest Speaker, Nigel Burch:

#### *Sir Richard Dry, our greatest hero*

Premier Sir Richard (“Dicky”) Dry died in office 150 years ago. Of all the Premiers of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, he is the only one who is still remembered. His popularity was extraordinary. No political figure in Tasmania will ever again be so idolised. He and Lady Dry were generous, kind, compassionate and courteous, and such great company that six successive Governors knocked on their door, wanting to get away from Hobart and stay at their vast *Quamby* estate at Hagley. Picture: Sir Richard Dry 1855 at age 40, by Alfred Bock, Mitchell Library.

# The 33<sup>rd</sup> John West Memorial Lecture

Dr Eric Ratcliff

## *John West's Launceston and where it went*

Friday 12 March 2021 – 8pm

Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania, Newnham.



### Abstract

John West came to Launceston at the end of 1838 and left in 1854. The lecture examines how the town had come to be, what it was like when he arrived, who lived and worked here, what it consisted of, and what it looked like. Was it a 'company town', dependent on government, or an English provincial town a long way from London, or a self-reliant and enterprising community, or something else? Was it in any way exceptional? What happened to it during West's fifteen years of residence, and after his departure, what has become of it since, and what is happening to it now?

Eric Ratcliff is the author of the four volume *A Far Microcosm: Building and Architecture in Van Diemen's Land and Tasmania 1803-1914*.

## 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.

Bookings are essential as the Museum meeting room can accommodate 70 people only. Either email [launcestonhistory@gmail.com](mailto:launcestonhistory@gmail.com) or phone the secretary Prue McCausland on 03 6327 2540 to register. Financial members will be given first offer of a seat at our lectures. Visitors who are not members of the Society are welcome to attend but are charged \$4 each.

The meeting will be livestreamed on Zoom. A link will be provided to members closer to the date.

- |                     |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>18 April</b>     | <b>John Dent &amp; Darren Watton</b> , <i>Kings Meadows Road Station</i>                                                                                                     |
| <b>16 May</b>       | <b>Derek Binns</b> , <i>John Francis: Royal assassin, Launceston builder</i>                                                                                                 |
| <b>20 June</b>      | <b>Dr Alicia Dennis</b> , Pugh Day Lecture TBC                                                                                                                               |
| <b>18 July</b>      | <b>Alan Townsend</b> , <i>If these walls could talk</i>                                                                                                                      |
| <b>15 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>19 September</b> | <b>Dr Nic Haygarth</b> , Mead, Smith, von Stieglitz Lecture, <i>Who killed the Tigers? A preliminary analysis of applicants for the Tasmanian thylacine bounty 1888–1909</i> |
| <b>17 October</b>   | <b>Nigel Burch</b> , TBA                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>1 November</b>   | <b>Excursion to Swansea</b> (Monday long weekend)                                                                                                                            |
| <b>21 November</b>  | <b>Graeme Williams</b> , <i>Around Tasmania with Spurling</i>                                                                                                                |

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/>

## Members' Column

**New members:** The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Megan Williams and family

**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](mailto: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 470 words, with at least three pictures, to the president [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto: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
157	29 Nov 2020	21	Kelli Schultz	Union at forefront in fight for political rights of women	WCTU & women's suffrage
158	6 Dec 2020	21	Nigel Burch	Australia's aviation future made a real splash in Tasmania	Fairey seaplanes at Beauty Point
159	13 Dec 2020	21	Dianne Cassidy	Sex scandal, claims of coercion sullied the city's reputation	An infamous business
160	20 Dec 2020	49	Nigel Burch	Gatty Campbell Town's first high-flyer	Harold Gatty, aviator
161	27 Dec 2020	35	Nigel Burch	Disaster turned the tide on big East Coast mining dreams	Seymour Coal Co.
162	3 Jan 2021	37	Dianne Cassidy	Preacher's protest wins a moral victory	Henry Varley, evangelist
163	10 Jan 2021	18	Nigel Burch	State in frenzy with a rush of gold fever	Gold Reward Commission
164	17 Jan 2021	17	Nigel Burch	Hidden hazard of Hebe Reef claims its share of catastrophes	Hebe Reef
165	24 Jan 2021	21	Catherine Pearce	Chequered past for the voice of the city	Chequers, Town Crier
166	31 Jan 2021	17	Rod Oliver	Smithies was a Tasmanian trailblazer	Fred Smithies: Civic leader & wilderness explorer
167	7 Feb 2021	17	Dianne Cassidy	Raising a brood of children common form of exploitation	Baby farm scandal
168	14 Feb 2021		Nigel Burch		Ponrabbell
169	21 Feb 2021		Nigel Burch		Bangor slate

## Other Items and Events of Interest

**George Town & District Historical Society:** Hillwood Hall, 15 February 2021, 7.30pm, Jon & Margaret Hosford, *History of St Mathias Church*; Tam O'Shanter Golf Club, 15 March 2021, 7.30pm, Stuart Bryce, *Experiences of a pilot in Vietnam*. Email: [info@gtlhs.com](mailto:info@gtlhs.com)

**Tasmanian Historical Research Association:** Legacy Function Rooms, 159 Macquarie St, Hobart on the second Tuesday of each month at 8pm. 9 February 2021, Henry Reynolds, *Truth telling at the University of Tasmania and in Tasmania generally*; 9 March 2021, Chris Tassell, *Waddamana Power Station – Vision and Amnesia*. Email: [info@thra.org.au](mailto:info@thra.org.au)

**National Book Council:** Pilgrim Church entrance off Civic Square, 18 February, 1pm, members free, visitors \$4. The Governor Kate Warner, *Researching and Writing the First History of Government House, Tasmania*. RSVP by 15 February: [nationalbookcounciltasmania@gmail.com](mailto:nationalbookcounciltasmania@gmail.com) or [rocives@gmail.com](mailto:rocives@gmail.com)

**Westbury & Districts Historical Society:** Sunday Strolls starting at 1pm, \$5 per tour. 21 February, Anglican Cemetery; 7 March, Village Green stocks; 21 March, Town Common car park; 18 April, Catholic Cemetery; 2 May, Sports ground cricket stumps; 23 May, William Street, Catholic Church. Contact Amanda on 0467 097 791 or [amanda.m.taylor@bigpond.com](mailto:amanda.m.taylor@bigpond.com)



**A4 locomotive being moved to City Park in 1960. QVMAG Collection.**

Rowan Kinnane from southern Tasmania is planning several videos to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Tasmanian Railways. One of them will be a feature on the A class steam locomotive that used to be in Launceston's City Park before it moved to the Don River Railway in 1990. Do any members have photos, or even film footage, of the steam loco when it was displayed in the park that they are happy to share with Rowan? Any material used will be acknowledged.

Please email Rowan at [railmediarowan@gmail.com](mailto:railmediarowan@gmail.com) or phone 0439 285 714.

### **Launceston Historical Society**

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

### **Deadline**

Items for the next *Newsletter* should be sent to the editor by **1 Apr 2021** at [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com) or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.