



Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 186

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Bringing together people with an interest in history

Launceston Missions

On Sunday 16 October Duncan Grant spoke on some Launceston Christian missions established in the nineteenth century. Most of the buildings disappeared long ago. The Bethel Chapel (1847-78) was built near the wharves for seamen and poor people in the area. Surrounded by brothels, the circa 1865 Brisbane Street Union Chapel was short-lived. Sister Charlotte Shoobridge ran a popular soup kitchen at St Johns Mission in the old Queen's Head Inn (1893-1905). There were at least three Chinese missions from 1884 to 1902 serving the tin miners from the northeast. Duncan has a website with much more information on over 1,000 churches: <https://www.churchesoftasmania.com/>



Helen Stuart and speaker Duncan Grant.



Speaker Nick Clements and Geoff McLean

Tongerlongeter

Nick Clements presented an excellent lecture on 20 November 2022 about Tongerlongeter. There are only about 30 references to the Tasmanian Aboriginal leader in the historic sources, starting four days before the end of the Black War on New Year's Eve 1831. Using circumstantial evidence, Nick tried to be impartial and honest while speculating on what might have happened to this brave commander who deserves recognition for defending his land against the colonising invaders. He lost his arm, his wife, his son, and land, and was exiled to Wybalenna on Flinders Island. There is no grand memorial.

West Tamar to Beaconsfield Excursion



Photographs taken at the Supply River and Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Museum by M Sargent.

On Monday 7 November a group of happy LHS members enjoyed our annual excursion along the West Tamar. After morning tea at Rosevears, we called into Swan Point and Paper Beach. Our next stop at Supply River was rather longer than expected as we had problems starting the bus again. We walked up to the picturesque ruins of the Supply River Mill and then had a lengthy wait for our rescuers to come and get the bus going. Unfortunately, we missed out on visiting the Sidmouth Kirk, but went straight onto Beaconsfield for lunch. We had an informative tour of the Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Museum before heading home via Brady's Lookout. Along the way Marion and Prue provided historical commentary. A great day was had by all, except Terese our bus driver!

Annandale Dig

The LHS Archaeology Group has completed the second Annandale archaeological dig (the first was in April 2021) in the last week of November. There were five participants for the whole week and another 10 came for part of the week, which was similar numbers to the first dig.

The dig was led by archaeologist Darren Watton of Southern Archaeology and assisted by new LHS member and archaeologist Burcu Keane with help from trench supervisors Sue Bell, Peta Newman and Ruth Heatley.

Two trenches were put in the northern room of the large stone building to confirm when it was built and what it was used for. Preliminary indications are that it was possibly built around the 1840s and was used as a barn and a residence.

A second building, a small stone hut on a neighbouring property was partially excavated to see when it was built and what it was used for. Preliminary indications are that it was likely to have been built earlier than the other larger building. The many artefacts that were found will now be cleaned, catalogued, assessed, and recorded and this will inform the final archaeological report which will be prepared in the next few months. Participants, the landowners and the LHS will receive a copy of the report.

The LHS Archaeology Group wish to thank the two landowners for allowing us access to their properties and to dig on their land, Darren Watton for making the dig possible, and LHS volunteers for helping the participants. We hope all those who came on the dig achieved something from the experience, enjoyed it, gained a better appreciation of a real archaeological dig, and that some may go on to explore a career in archaeology.

We are looking at the possibility of conducting another dig sometime in 2023 at the old Perth Gaol. More details will appear in this newsletter when they are known.

John Dent,

Convenor of the LHS Archaeology Group



Participants working on the Annandale dig near Pateena Road in November 2022.

15th Primary History Prize

There were 62 entries from seven schools – Evandale, Glen Dhu, Mowbray Heights, and Summerdale Primary Schools, St Thomas More's, Launceston Christian School, and Scotch Oakburn College. There was an increase in the number of entries compared with the last two years, but still not as many as pre-pandemic years. The presentation ceremony in the Town Hall was not held again this year, but each school recognised the students in their own assemblies. Every child received a certificate of participation.

Book vouchers from Petrarch's Bookshop totalling \$735 were presented to 15 children. The fourth and final Rebecca Phillips Memorial Prize of \$50 was awarded to Delightful Odeyemi for her creative work on *Why is Australia so good at Swimming?* We partnered with the Children's University this year for the first time. The History Prize sub-committee of Carol Fuller, Brad Wood and Prue McCausland judged the entries.

LHS Activities 2023

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. Free for members, visitors are welcome to attend at \$4 each. Bring some cash for a chance to win a fabulous prize in the raffle. The meeting will be livestreamed on Zoom. A link will be provided to members closer to the date.

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/>

19 February	AGM + Geoff McLean , <i>The significance of the Tamar Valley / Launceston region for Tasmanian Aboriginal people</i>
19 March	Nick Brodie, John West Memorial Lecture , <i>The Long Shadow of John West's War</i>
16 April	Stephen Cornish , <i>Anzac theme, The accidental historian</i>
21 May	Maureen Martin Ferris & Sandra Duck , <i>Tasmanian Pictorial Church Index</i>
18 June	Moira McAlister , <i>Dr Barry Cotter & wife Izzy</i>
16 July	Jacqui Triffitt , <i>On the front foot: The Rise of Tasmanian Women's Cricket</i>
20 August	Tabatha Badger , <i>Florence Perrin</i>
17 September	Marion Sargent, Mead, Smith, von Stieglitz Lecture <i>JM Haenke's architectural legacy</i>
15 October	Kate Bagnall , <i>Tasmanian Chinese History & Heritage</i>
6 November	East Tamar Excursion (Monday long weekend)
19 November	Michelle Blake , <i>Virtual tour of local heritage in Launceston: Why we live the way we do</i>

Members Column

The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Esther Adams, Guy Hensley, Burcu Keane, Maddy Lewis, Eric Smith, Thomas Spencer, Alison Wild and Helen Wilson.

Vale

Peter Cox, a member since 1999, sadly died on 5 October 2022. He was an avid historian and presented lectures at this Society's meetings on *George Hobler's Diary* (June 2002), *History of Lefroy* (Nov 2003), *On the trail of William Paterson* (Nov 2008) and at the symposium in April 2006 on *Shipping and the Port of Launceston: The First Century*. He will be sorely missed.

Other Events of Interest

LGH Historical Committee: You are invited to the launch of three books – *Iodophor: Tamed Iodine: The Status of Iodine in Tasmania*; *Seaweed: The Status of Iodine and Climate Change in Tasmania*; and *The History of Surgery: Launceston General Hospital 1863-2022* – on Friday 10 February 2023, at 11 am, at Foot & Playsted. Charles Street, Launceston. All three books will be launched by Dr the Hon Frank Madill. RSVP to Paul Richards pacrichards1@bigpond.com

LGH Historical Committee: The following books are scheduled for publication in March or April 2023:

- The History of the Royal Flying Doctor Service – Tasmanian Section 1960-2022. Paul A.C. Richards and Colleagues
- Shadows of the Past and Future: Infectious Diseases: Launceston General Hospital 1863-2022. Paul A.C. Richards and Colleagues
- Cornwall Hospital and Infirmary to Launceston General Hospital 1854-1864 – Paul A.C. Richards and the late Jenny Gill

All books which now number over 20 are only available for purchase through the Clifford Craig Foundation <https://cliffordcraig.org.au/shop> following publication.

From the Past

Cornwall Chronicle, Wednesday 25 November 1840, page 2

An Escalade. On Tuesday night, a female named Sarah Owens, per *Lady of the Lake* confined in, and employed as cook in the Factory, took it into her head to see the world. Having been locked up with three other women in the mess-room, she crooked the prongs of a fork, and the lock being inside the room, the bolt was soon shot back, and she thus obtained admittance to the yard. A long form was then brought out and placed against the wall, and her companion 'giving her a leg,' she was soon on the top of the wall, from which she leaped, a height of about twenty feet, into the street; the noise of her fall alarmed the watchman, who going to the spot, found the woman senseless. She was conveyed to her old quarters.

Examiner, Tuesday 11 August 1936, page 6

WILL SOON BE NO MORE

Old Gaol Eye-sore Attacked. Various pieces of ground off Paterson-street are now being exposed to the light of day for the first time for more than 100 years. The demolition of the old gaol and police buildings is in progress. ... **Their History.** These buildings, soon to be no more, are among the oldest and most historic in Australia. The interiors as seen now dank and dismal, emphasise the fact that they have long outlived their usefulness, and are really an eyesore. In 1817, Governor Macquarie gave instructions that a gaol and other buildings were to be erected at Launceston. The gaol, which was situated on the land where the State High School now stands, was finished in 1829. The massive wall round the gaol was from 12 to 18 feet high, and 4 or 5 feet in width. There was a walking path along the top of the wall to enable an armed guard to overlook the prisoners at work. In the early sixties the civic authorities took over the administration of the police force in Launceston, and the old treadmill in Paterson-street was renovated and turned into a police court. The cells used until recently as a police lock-up were at one time attached to the gaol proper, which was situated where the State High School now stands, and was finally demolished in 1919. The two-storied building which was the lock-up and will soon be pulled down contained at one time about 28 cells. In these cells the prisoners who were sentenced to the treadmill were housed. Bathurst-street, between Brisbane and Paterson streets, was enclosed by a high wall at both ends, and the space between was used as a stone breaking yard, the stone being brought by the prisoners from the Cataract Hill. At that time the gaol buildings covered the space from Tarleton-street to Margaret-street. Bathurst street was later opened for street traffic, and the dividing walls pulled down. ...



Launceston Gaol from Bathurst Street. Spurling Photo. Launceston Library, LPIC147-4-61.

Our History

These stories on Launceston's history and beyond have been contributed by our members. You are welcome to send articles of 475 words, with at least three pictures, to the president marionsargent@bigpond.com. Read the stories in *The Sunday Examiner* or on [Facebook](#).

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

No	Date	Page	Author	Title	Topic
253	9 Oct 2022	27	Julian Burgess	When Waddamana power came to aid of burgeoning city	When Waddamana power came to town
254	16 Oct 2022	27	Nigel Burch	The Launceston Primitives spreading the revivalist word	Primitive Methodist churches
255	23 Oct 2022	29	Julian Burgess	Cataract Hill has first electric home	Launceston's first electric house
256	30 Oct 2022	31	Peter Richardson	The surprising legacy of a second-rate 19 th -century postmaster	St John Browne & the Penny Cyclopaedia
257	6 Nov 2022	31	Nigel Burch	Launcestonians 'with time to talk' take to the telephone	Launceston takes to the Telephone
258	13 Nov 2022	27	Julian Burgess	Tracing the history of John Ford's hovercraft	John Ford's Hovercraft
259	20 Nov 2022	29	Nigel Burch	Celebrating our first Miss Australia: Phyllis Von Alwyn	Our many Miss Australias
260	27 Nov 2022	33	Marion Sargent	Bandstands reveal city's passion for musical diversions	City Park Bandstands
261	4 Dec 2022	31	Nigel Burch	Bradman, Grace, history made in 200 years at NTCA oval	Launceston Cricket Ground
262	11 Dec 2022		Julian Burgess		Kelsall & Kemp

Membership Form

A membership form is available on our website: [Membership Form.pdf](#). Sunday meetings are free for LHS members, and \$4 for visitors. Renewals for 2023 are due on 31 December 2022. We encourage members to pay by direct debit to our Commonwealth of Bank of Australia account: BSB 067 003 A/C 2804 8638, by mail with a cheque or cash at the next meeting on 19 February 2023.

Merry Christmas and Happy New year everyone! Keep reading the 'Our History' articles over the summer and note the third Sunday of the month in your diaries for next year's meetings. The John West Memorial Lecture will be held on Sunday 19 March at 2pm, not Friday evening as in the past.

Launceston Historical Society

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Deadline

Items for the next *Newsletter* should be sent to the editor by **1 Feb 2023** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.