



# Launceston Historical Society Inc.

## Newsletter No 187

February 2023

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

*Bringing together people with an interest in history*

### Annual General Meeting + Geoff McLean

**Sunday 19 February 2023 – 2pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk**

Welcome to another year of history! A PowerPoint show of the past year's activities will be shown before the short AGM which starts at 2pm, followed by our guest speaker Geoff McLean.

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

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

Memberships are now due for renewal for 2023. Thank you to all those who have already paid. Lectures are free for members, visitors \$4. Bring cash for the chance to win a great prize in the raffle!

### The significance of the Tamar Valley/Launceston region for Tasmanian Aboriginal people



Geoff McLean (pictured) is a Tasmanian Aboriginal historian and knowledge sharer. Geoff was a former lecturer at the University of Tasmania in First Nations histories and cultures and is still engaged by the School of Education as a tutor/marker in units with a First Nations focus. In addition to that Geoff runs a small business, Wallaby Walkabout Tours, where he provides Tasmanian Aboriginal histories and cultures experiences to school groups and others. As part of that he also provides Professional Learning and Cultural Awareness sessions for teachers/other educators and school staff, and Cultural Awareness sessions for companies, businesses, or any other interested groups.

Geoff has gained much of his knowledge not from just his own research, but also from Elders such as Aunty Patsy Cameron and Uncle Murray Everett who Geoff has worked with and spent time 'on-country' in various places of Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural and spiritual significance, such as Sundown Point, West Point, Rocky Cape, Narawntapu, Risdon Cove and, naturally our own wonderful Cataract Gorge.

For this presentation, Geoff will focus on the significance of the Tamar Valley/Launceston region for Tasmanian Aboriginal people. For decades this region has attracted little in the way of research and some historians have discounted it as having any importance at all. However, as you will find out there is great significance of the areas and most likely a Tasmanian Aboriginal occupation of the Tamar Valley/Launceston for around 35,000 years.

# The 35<sup>th</sup> John West Memorial Lecture

Dr Nick Brodie

## *The Long Shadow of John West's War*

Sunday 19 March 2023 – 2pm, Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk



Abstract:

John West's History of Tasmania occupies a significant place in the historiography of the Vandemonian War. While written well within living memory, West's treatment of the conflict reflects the conventions and preoccupations of an extant body of Vandemonian literature. Intensely concerned with ethnography, nineteenth century histories tended to produce a familiar narrative frame with regard to matters Aboriginal. As such, like other contemporary texts, West's history remains a problematic resource when mined by historians for historical data. This lecture delves into that conundrum, with an eye to the lingering effects of West's account of the conflict.

**Dr Nick Brodie** is the author of several history books, including *1787* and *The Vandemonian War*, as well as numerous peer reviewed articles and essays about Tasmania's frontier history and historiography. He is presently the Dean of Academic Studies at Jane Franklin Hall.

### Membership Renewals

Annual subscriptions for the Launceston Historical Society were due on 31 December 2022. 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

***Launceston Examiner* (Tas. : 1842 - 1899), Wednesday 23 January 1884, page 2 (From Trove)**

A LOST SEAL. – The young seal brought to town in the cutter *Albion*, and which its owner intended to present to the collection in the Town Park, has gone on an exploring expedition on its own account. It was being shown to some visitors on board the vessel about 11 a.m. yesterday, when it made a dart over the side and into the river. The tide was full, and the seal headed across the flats for the Cataract, occasionally coming to the surface to breathe. Several persons pursued it in boats, but the animal made good its escape, and may perhaps be heard of as a "bunyip" up the Cataract, or in the First Basin. The owner of the lost seal, however, informs us that there were hundreds on Barren-Joey Island when the *Albion* called there last Thursday, and that on her next trip he will call in and endeavour to bring up a couple of young seals for the Town Park. This is a liberal spirit to display, and the public will be much indebted if the seals are safely lodged in the Park, as they are a novelty to most townfolk, and make very entertaining pets.

## 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/>

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

## Members Column

The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new member: Cally Lott.

### 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 were 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.

## Other Events of Interest

**George Town & District Historical Society:** Monday, 20 February 2023, 7.30pm, Hillwood Hall, Lucille Gee, *Franklin House*; Monday, 20 March 2023, 7.30pm, Tam O'Shanter Community & Golf Club, Margaret Dockray, *Lalla Rhododendron Gardens*. Email: [info@qtdhs.com](mailto:info@qtdhs.com).

**National Book Council:** Wednesday, 15 February 2023, 1.15pm, Launceston Library, Paul A.C. Richards AM MSc, *Publishing Medical and Local History and the LGH Historical Committee 1988-2022*. Members free; non-members \$5. RSVP: [nationalbookcounciltasmania@gmail.com](mailto:nationalbookcounciltasmania@gmail.com).

**LGH Historical Committee:** The Northern launch of two iodine deficiency books and *The History of Surgery: LGH 1863-2022* by the Hon Frank Madill is scheduled for 10 February 2023, 11am at Foot and Playsted. Books can be purchased from the Clifford Craig Foundation <https://cliffordcraig.org.au/shop>.

**Royal Society of Tasmania:** Sunday, 26 February 2023, 1.30pm, QVMAG Inveresk. Dr Eric Ratcliff, *The peril of naming things*. For Zoom webinar, register at [www.rst.org.au](http://www.rst.org.au).

**Tasmanian Historical Research Association:** Legacy Function Rooms, 159 Macquarie St, Hobart on the second Tuesday of each month at 8pm. 14 February 2023, Jeff Schneider, *Hobart's Jewish history from the earliest colonial days to the present*; 14 March 2023, John Short, *The career of William Collins, Hobart's first harbourmaster and early colonial businessman*. Email: [info@thra.org.au](mailto:info@thra.org.au).

**Library Book Sale:** Saturday, 4 March 2023, 9am – 1pm, St Ailbe's Hall, Margaret Street, Launceston.

**Tamar Bicycle Users Group, Bike Week:** Sunday, 5 March 2023, 10am to 2pm, Village Green and Velodrome, Longford, Classic & Retro Cycle Show; Friday, 10 March 2023, 9.45am, Marion Sargent will lead a TBUG history ride from the Silo Hotel car park to the Ravenswood Bike Museum. More information: <https://tamarbug.org.au/>.

## 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](mailto: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
262	11 Dec 2022	31	Julian Burgess	The rise and fall of textile powerhouse Kelsall and Kemp	Kelsall & Kemp
263	18 Dec 2022	33	Nigel Burch	Spanning the mighty Tamar no easy task for bridge team	Batman Bridge
264	1 Jan 2023	25	Nigel Burch	SS Coogee's tale of woe: from Brit witch to divers' paradise	Our SS Coogee
265	8 Jan 2023	29	Nigel Burch	The unlucky life of Tasmanian mining pioneer Alick Loane	The unlucky life of Alick Loane
266	15 Jan 2023	27	Guy Hensley	State's women spread their wings to help war effort at home	Women's Air Training Corp in Launceston
267	22 Jan 2023	31	Nigel Burch	Multiple tributes to one of state's great mineral trailblazers	Frank Long
268	29 Jan 2023	29	Nigel Burch	How state became a world leader in poppy production	Tasmanian poppy industry
269	5 Feb 2023	31	Julian Burgess	Patons and Baldwins' mills a boon for city's 1923 wool sales	New mills benefit Launceston's 1923 wool sales
270	12 Feb 2023		Nigel Burch		Our marching girls
271	19 Feb 2023		Nigel Burch		The day we booed Nellie Melba

### **Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), Saturday 22 June 1907, page 6 (From Trove)**

FIRE. A small fire occurred to-day on the premises of Mr. E. L. Ludbrook, draper, at the corner of Brisbane and St. John streets. A boy employed in the establishment lit the gas in the cellar, and threw away the match, which fell among some kapok, which immediately became alight. The boy became frightened and ran away. The fire brigade was summoned, but the fire was extinguished by a few buckets of water before their arrival. Ludbrook's is a large three-storey building, next to the Launceston Hotel.

### **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 2023** at [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com) or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.

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