

# Launceston Historical Society Inc.

## Newsletter No 192

February 2024

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

*Bringing together people with an interest in history*

### Annual General Meeting + John Dent & Rod Oliver

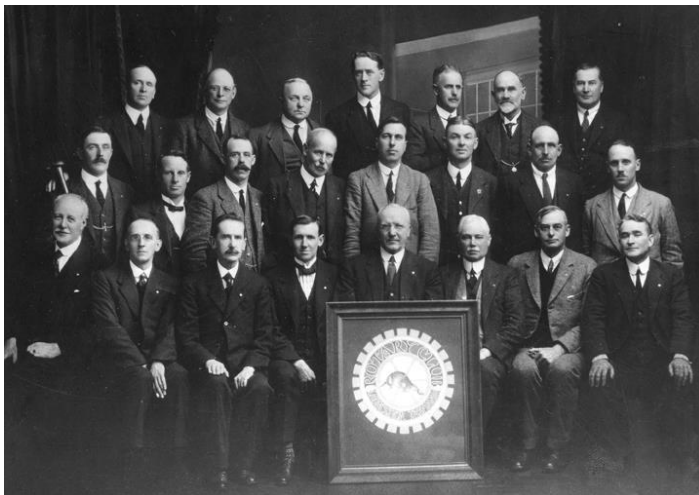
**Sunday 18 February 2024 – 2pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk**

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 speakers John Dent and Rod Oliver.

All eleven positions on the Executive: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and seven Committee Members will be declared vacant. Although we are sorry to see Kelli Schultz step down from the committee after seven years, the good news is that Sophie Appleby is willing to take her place, so no further nominations are required.

Memberships are now due for renewal for 2024. Thank you to all those who have already paid. Lectures are free for members, visitors \$5. Bring cash for the chance to win a great prize in the raffle!

### 100 years of the Rotary Club of Launceston



**Foundation members of the Rotary Club of  
Launceston. QVM:1994:P:0707**

Rotary was formed by four American businessmen in Chicago in 1905. It soon spread around the world and in 1924 the Rotary Club of Melbourne came to Launceston and then Hobart to see if there was interest in forming Rotary clubs in Tasmania. The Rotary Club of Launceston was formed at a meeting held on 18 February 1924 with Dr (later Sir) John Ramsay as the first president. It was the first club in Tasmania but in typical Tasmanian fashion, there is some dispute about this with Hobart claiming they were first. The club helped the community by collecting and distributing clothes in the floods of 1929 and went on to contribute in

many ways to the well-being of the Launceston community. Some of the projects that the club has undertaken over the years will be discussed

as well as many of the people who have been part of the club and the impact the club has had on the city, the state, and internationally.

**John Dent and Rod Oliver** have both been members of the club for many years. John has twice served as President and as secretary and has held most positions within the club over the 32 years he has been a member. John has served as a representative of Rotary on many organisations and is a member of many historical organisations in the region. Rod has been a member of the club for 20 years, has served as President, and has produced the club's weekly bulletin for most of that time. He has also served in this role at the District level.



## The 36<sup>th</sup> John West Memorial Lecture

Associate Professor Kristyn Harman

*A good riddance:*

*The Inception of Criminal Deportation in Colonial Australia*

Sunday 17 March 2024 – 2pm

Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk

Over the past decade, many Australians have become familiar with the concept of criminal deportation. In December 2014, the Australian government amended Section 501 of the Migration Act to provide for the cancellation of visas of people with criminal records on the grounds of bad character, and to enable these people to be deported to their countries of origin. More than 3,000 so-called 501 deportees have since been deported from Australia, with around 60% being returned to Aotearoa New Zealand.

Criminal deportation has a long history in the former Australian colonies. It dates back beyond the time at which John West was railing against the evils of convict transportation. For West, Tasmania's convict population comprised the 'Thousands of British offenders' who 'trod almost alone the first stages of Austral colonisation'. However, unknown to most present-day Australians, hundreds of formerly free people were deported from mainland colonies to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) as well as within the island colony itself following criminal trials. Some of these people were men, women, and children who had arrived free in the Australian colonies. Others, including both colonial and Aboriginal people, were born free here. What they all had in common was freedom prior to their colonial convictions and sentences to transportation. While West's focus on the British Isles was understandable, this was far from the full picture of Australian convictism.

In this lecture, I examine the lives of some of these formerly free people who were criminally deported to or within Van Diemen's Land in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. I also explore the wider socio-legal contexts that facilitated their deportation, situating this longstanding practice within the wider arc of criminal deportation from early modern England to present-day Australia.

**Kristyn Harman** (PhD) is an Associate Professor in History at the University of Tasmania. A social historian, Kristyn is an award-winning expert on cross-cultural encounters across Britain's nineteenth-century colonies with a particular focus on law, punishment, and incarceration. With Dr Vicky Nagy, Kristyn is currently working on an Australian Research Council-funded project 'The Inception of Criminal Deportation in Colonial Australia' DP230100267 (2023-2025). This significant research project builds on her earlier work, including her award-winning monograph *Aboriginal Convicts: Australian, Khoisan and Maori Exiles*, and her follow-up book, *Cleansing the Colony: Transporting Convicts from New Zealand to Van Diemen's Land*.

## LHS Activities 2024

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 \$5 each. Bring some cash for a chance to win a prize in the raffle. Come along to learn about our history.

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>21 April</b>	<b>Julian Burgess</b> , <i>Convict clock and watchmakers</i>
<b>19 May</b>	<b>Stefan Petrow</b> , <i>Joseph Reginald Forward and the Making of the Launceston Public Library 1906 to 1948</i>
<b>16 June</b>	<b>Hamish Maxwell-Stewart</b> , <i>Convict Memorial</i>
<b>21 July</b>	TBA
<b>18 August</b>	TBA
<b>15 September</b>	TBA
<b>20 October</b>	<b>Jen Thompson</b> , <i>"Scenes that are brightest"</i>
<b>17 November</b>	<b>Darren Watton &amp; John Dent</b> , <i>The old Perth Gaol Archaeological Dig</i>

## New Members

The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Jane Oakley-Lohm, Kaye Powell, Emma Savage and Robina Singleton.

## Membership Form

Membership forms are available on our website in both PDF and Word formats. Sunday meetings are free for LHS members, and admission for visitor's is \$5. Renewals for 2024 were due on 31 December 2023. We encourage members to pay by direct debit into our Commonwealth Bank of Australia account: BSB 067-003 A/C No. 2804 8638, by cheque in the mail, or cash at the next meeting you attend.

## Membership Renewals

Annual subscriptions for the Launceston Historical Society were **due on 31 December 2023**. 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

## Other Events of Interest

**George Town & District Historical Society:** At Hillwood, 19 February 2024, 7.30pm, Gerald Archer, *The Archer Properties*; The Grove, George Town, 18 March 2024, 7.30pm, Ron Riley, *Bass & Flinders*. Email: [info@gtlhs.com](mailto:info@gtlhs.com).

**Book Council of Lutruwita/Tasmania:** Launceston Library, Level 2, third Wednesday of the month at 1.15pm. 21 February 2024, Lynda Young, artist/author *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*. Members free; non-members \$5. RSVP: [bookcouncilt@gmail.com](mailto:bookcouncilt@gmail.com).

**Library Book Sale:** Saturday 2 March 2024, 9am – 1pm, St Ailbe's Hall, Margaret Street, Launceston.

**Royal Society of Tasmania (Northern Branch):** Meeting Room, QV Museum, Inveresk on the fourth Sunday of each month at 1.30pm. 25 February 2024, Tim McCormack, *The International Criminal Court and Ukraine*; 24 March 2024, Dom Geraghty, *The University of Tasmania's Northern Transformation Project – 8 years on*. Inquiries: Lois Beckwith, [loisbeckwith27@gmail.com](mailto:loisbeckwith27@gmail.com)

**Tasmanian Historical Research Association:** Legacy Function Rooms, 159 Macquarie St, Hobart on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. 13 February 2024, Henry Reynolds, *'We're all in this together': Truth-telling and Tasmanian historiography*; 12 March 2024, Lucy Frost, *'Pariahs of the Orphan School': the effects of stigma*. Email: [info@thra.org.au](mailto:info@thra.org.au).

**Northern Tasmanian Light Horse Troop:** National Purple Poppy Day. Commemoration Service of War Animal Remembrance Day with guest speaker Chief Petty Officer Andrew Russell, Campbell Town War Memorial Precinct, Saturday 24 February 2024, 10.30am. Launceston City Band & Choir, BBQ, military displays. More information: [northerntaslighthorsetroop@gmail.com](mailto:northerntaslighthorsetroop@gmail.com) or 0438 912 751.

**Tamar Bicycle Users Group, Bike Week:** Friday, 1 March 2024, 9.45am, Marion Sargent will lead a TBUG history ride from the Riverbend car park to explore some historic buildings of Newstead. More information: <https://tamarbug.org.au/>.

## From Trove: Cornwall Chronicle, Saturday 10 December 1853, page 3

**Land Sale.** We furnish in this issue a skeleton of the list of town and suburban lots of crown land, which is advertised in the Gazette, for sale at the Court House in this town, on the 4th of next month. Sufficient of the notices is published to enable any party to ascertain the respective localities by making a reference to the charts to guide him. It will be seen that a few lots of the Swamp will be put up; enough of it, perhaps, will fall into the possession of individuals, to occasion the commencement of 'Swamp Town.'

## 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](#).

No	Date	Page	Author	<i>The Sunday Examiner</i> Title	Topic
313	10 Dec 2023	27	Nigel Burch	Controversy and name changes at Charles St bridge	Charles St Bridge
314	17 Dec 2023	23	Nigel Burch	How Mowbray racecourse served as a hospital	Mowbray Smallpox Hospital
315	24 Dec 2023	13	Nigel Burch	Bridging the state's North-South divide	Perth Bridge
316	31 Dec 2023	19	Julian Burgess	The founding of the Launceston Bicycle Club	Launceston Bicycle Club
317	7 Jan 2024	23	Nigel Burch	An iso hospital gave Quarantine Road its name	Verulam Isolation Hospital
318	14 Jan 2024	23	Julian Burgess	130 years ago, Launceston gave coal gas the flick	Launceston Gas Company
319	21 Jan 2024	23	Marion Sargent	Swamped by the mud: the Tamar's never-ending saga	Tamar Estuary mud
320	28 Jan 2024	23	Nigel Burch	Mud flats 'natural state' of Tamar's upper reaches	More on mud
321	4 Feb 2024	18	Julian Burgess	Launceston racquet 'first choice'	Alexander Patent Racket Company
322	11 Feb 2024		Julian Burgess		Governor Arthur's visit to Launceston in 1824
323	18 Feb 2024		Julian Burgess		John Fawkner and the Cornwall Hotel

### From Trove: Advocate, Tuesday 23 July 1935, page 2

**Tamar Mud Has Its Value.** LAUNCESTON, Monday. The approach to Launceston via the Tamar was described today as "famous for its scenery and its right-angled turns." Another feature of the river that is sometimes spoken of scornfully is the mud that forms much of its bed. However, Captain E. Evans, of the *Taroona*, mentioned today that the mud in question is not altogether a drawback. "Were it not for the presence of soft mud in the upper reaches of the Tamar," he said, "no insurance company would cover the risk of a mishap without prohibitive premiums."

#### Launceston Historical Society

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### Deadline

Items for the next *Newsletter* should be sent to the editor by **1 Apr 2024** at [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com) or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.

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