



Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 154

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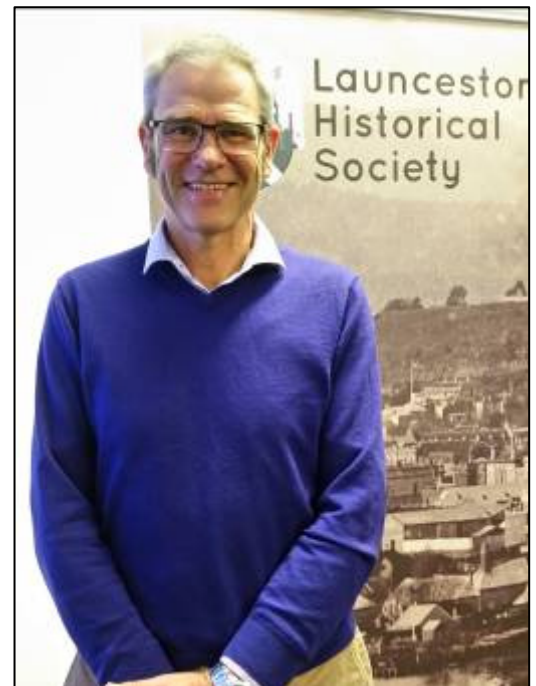
PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Bringing together people since 1988 with an interest in history

Blinded by Blood

As we approached Anzac Day, on 17 April 2016, Craig Deayton gave a fascinating and thoughtful talk on the memorialisation of the First World War. The War burnt deeply into our national psyche. There is a memorial in just about every town in Australia. The conflict was seen as a noble cause; the men did not die in vain. The memorials are a symbol of our grateful acknowledgement of the sacrifice they made.

Craig argued that in both our popular understanding of WW1 and in teaching about it, we often focus on the wrong things and as a result, we fail to understand the full importance of WW1 and fail to fully appreciate Australia's contribution to the outcome. Furthermore, he argued that this is not just neglect or ignorance, but wilful. There has been a focus on the losses, such as Gallipoli. But two successful battles that are barely mentioned, Messines (June, 1917) and Dernancourt (March-April 1918), helped to turn the war. Craig sees that there is an attempt to correct history, for example by awarding retrospective Victoria Crosses. He asks us to seek the truth, go back to the primary sources and understand the good and bad stories.



Speaker Craig Deayton.
Photo: M Sargent



Speaker John Dent with Terry Neal and Paul Richards.

Kerry Lodge Dig

John Dent presented an overview of the Kerry Lodge Archaeology Project on Sunday 15 May 2016. A team of archaeologists are trying to find out where the convicts lived while building the Spikey Bridge, the earliest on the old Hobart Road. Three trenches were excavated revealing the 1830-40s stone dwelling of the overseer. At the rear of the building a wall, chimney, hearthstone and timber floor were found, with many artefacts evidently thrown out the window. Three layers of a pathway led to the house at the front. A convict button and a clay pipe were among the artefacts here. Each layer was photographed, drawn and mapped.



Aileen Pike and John Paull.
Photo: M. Sargent

Dr Pugh's missing Journal

Persistence did pay as Dr John Paull and Aileen Pike told how they tracked down a journal written by Dr William Pugh of his journey to New Holland on the maiden voyage of the *Derwent* in 1835. The Pugh Day lecture, held on 19 June 2016, was well received by a large audience. Pugh, the ship's surgeon, made comments about his fellow passengers, complained of water shortages, described a lucky escape from pirates and fell in love with Miss Kirton. She refused his marriage proposal, so Pugh sailed on to Sydney. But he came back to Hobart, walked to Launceston and married Cornelia in May 1836. The journal was sent to Pugh's father in England. In 1934 a family friend brought it back to Tasmania. The *Illustrated Tasmanian Mail* published the section on Pugh's walk north and indicated that there was more. Aileen tracked down Pugh's sister's family in England. Sheena Ronan, Alistair Henderson and their siblings have gifted the journal to Tasmania. It has now travelled here for the third time! It is to be conserved, digitised and kept at the Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office in Hobart, but will come north again to be displayed at the Launceston LINC.

July Talk

Georgia Fountoulaki: *Greek Culture: Tasmanian Connections*

Sunday 17 July 2016 – 2.00pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk

Abstract:

Georgia Fountoulaki will reveal the story of a man named Marrenos Lekatsas, who travelled to Australia attracted by tales of a "New El Dorado". In the beginning of the twentieth century his name appeared in Tasmanian newspapers, for the best reasons: his involvement with leisure time activities in Tasmania; and the erection of two iconic theatres in Launceston, the Princess and Majestic. History seems to have forgotten him and his origins. However nowadays Mareeno's "boat-Odysseus" trip is, maybe more than ever, noteworthy to be told!

Biography:

Georgia is a historian, born in Greece with special interest in Cultural and Social history. After completing a Bachelor in European Culture Studies with Honours, she was awarded a Tasmanian International Scholarship and graduated from the University of Tasmania with a Masters thesis: *Tasmanian Society: Interaction between Migrants and Place, Greek Migrants as a Case-Study*. Currently she is working at the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) in Hobart.

August Talk

Susan Aykut: *Launceston's Victorian Turkish Baths*

Sunday 21 August 2016 – 2.00pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk

Abstract:

Exotic bathing venues are not new to Australia: Turkish baths were part of our colonial history. They were found in capital cities throughout Australia as well as some regional centres and country areas. This paper looks at the three Victorian Turkish baths constructed in Launceston in the nineteenth-century. It considers some of the moral, medical and scientific beliefs and ideas behind their creation. While the motivation behind each of these establishments was different, all promoted the health and wellbeing of the community.

Biography:

Susan Aykut is an historian who has researched extensively Turkish baths in a variety of settings. After completing her doctoral thesis on the world of the Ottoman Turkish bath she began investigating the little known Victorian incarnation of the Turkish bath in Australia. She has presented her research on Turkish baths on Radio National, most recently in a segment on the Sacred Bath (www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/earshot/spiritual-ablutions/7370094 May 2016), and previously on (www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/hindsight/you-must-use-the-bath/3320140). Her work also appears in a number of publications, including 'The Turkish Bath in Australia: Exotic Eastern delight or home-grown utility?' in *Impact of the Modern: Everyday modernities in Australia 1890-1960*, Sydney University Press, 2008 and 'Washing from the inside out: Turkish baths down under', *TAASA Review* (Vol.16/1, March 2007). Her research on the Launceston Victorian Turkish baths will appear in *The Fabric of Launceston*, edited by Tom Dunning, Barbara Valentine and Paul A.C. Richards, LGH Historical Committee (forthcoming August 2016).

September

Combined Seminar with Oral History Tasmania

Sunday 18 September 2016 – 10.00am to 3.00pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk. \$25 includes lunch.

Brad Williams, *Archaeological dig at Launceston College/Gaol*

Jill Cassidy, *Oral History: What's all the fuss about?*

Margaretta Pos, *My journey with colonial pioneer Elizabeth Fenton*

See page 4 for the full program and the separate sheet for the registration form.

Advance notice of LHS activities for 2016

Launceston Historical Society meetings are held at the meeting room, Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk, on Sundays at 2.00pm, unless otherwise notified.

16 October **Marion Sargent**, *Amy Sargent: An Adventurous Nurse*

20 November **Anne Neale**, *City Park Fountain*

Annual Excursion – Honey, Huts & Caves

This year we are organising an excursion to the Chudleigh – Mole Creek area in November. It will be held on a Friday – the date is yet to be confirmed.

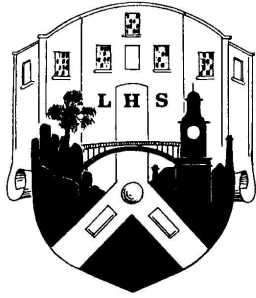
The proposed itinerary is to stop at Chudleigh for morning tea, visit the historic R. Stephens Tasmanian Honey factory, see the 'Boy' Miles Liena Mountain Hut, lunch at the Mole Creek Hotel, take the Marakoopa Caves underground river and glow worms tour and have afternoon tea at the Marakoopa Café.

Watch out for more information in the next newsletter.

Members' Column

New members:

The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Edwina Brown, Tim Chugg, Richard Dixon, Robert Evans, Gary Hayes, Peter Mulholland, Dawn Radel, Mike and Susie Shaw, Margaret Stephenson, Dimity Stopford, Bradley Wood and Louise Zarmati.



**LAUNCESTON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



HISTORY SEMINAR

Sunday 18 September 2016

Meeting room, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk

10.00 Registration

10.30 **Brad Williams, *Archaeological dig at Launceston College / Gaol***

With recent plans for an expansion of the Launceston College Performing Arts building, the College commissioned Brad Williams of Praxis Environment to investigate the archaeological potential of the site which was originally the Launceston Gaol. Excavations revealed that the development site straddled the very earliest part of the gaol stemming from 1825. This talk will detail the archaeological project and give a sneak preview of the college's plans for embracing their heritage.

11.30 **Jill Cassidy, *Oral History: What's all the fuss about?***

Many years ago oral history was not seen as 'real' history and there are still some people who question its use. Despite this, over recent decades there has been an extraordinary mushrooming of oral history. What is there in oral history which has caused so many people to make such a fuss of its benefits and has led to an explosion of books, radio and television programs, museum exhibitions and more recently CDs and videos using oral history?

12.30 **Lunch and AGM of OHT**

1.30 **Margaretta Pos, *My journey with colonial pioneer Elizabeth Fenton***

Born in Ireland in 1804 into the Anglo-Irish gentry, Margaretta Pos' great-great-great grandmother Elizabeth Fenton sailed for India in 1826 and died in Tasmania in 1876. She left a revealing chronicle of her life in her journals, the later ones, which have remained unpublished with her descendants. An intelligent and highly literate diarist, she faced tragedy, political intrigue, loss of faith, and all with a depressive illness that shadowed her life. Margaretta Pos approached her words as if conducting a series of interviews. Her book, *Mrs Fenton's Journey: India and Tasmania 1826 to 1876*, was published in 2014.

2.30 **Afternoon tea**

Cost \$25

Prior registration is essential for catering purposes. Please see separate registration form.

Enquiries: Catherine Pearce, 6331 6828 after 6pm or cath.pearce@bigpond.com



Fabric of Launceston Launch

You are invited to attend the launch
of the book *The Fabric of Launceston*
in the ARTrium Gallery, LGH.

Saturday, 6 August 2016 at 11am,
Northern Integrated Care Services, 41 Frankland Street, Launceston.

Signed copies of the book will be on sale for \$50.

This event is proudly supported by the LGH Historical Committee.

Free parking at NICS, 10.30am to 1pm.

The Fabric of Launceston: A Collaborative Community History,
edited by Tom Dunning, Barbara Valentine and Paul AC Richards.

A selection of photos from the Great Flood of 1929

From *The Weekly Courier*, 10 April 1929



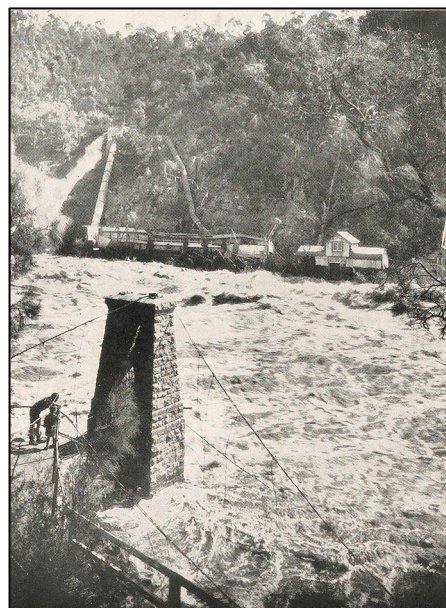
View from the Zig Zag Track.



Lower Charles Street.



Royal Park Bowling Green and Croquet Lawn.



Remains of the Duck Reach Power
Station & Bridge.



Photos of the
floods in June
2016.

Other items and events of interest

Blessing of the Bonnets: A celebration of convict women in Evandale and surrounding areas at St Andrew's Uniting Church, Evandale, Sunday 18 September 2016. The Church service starts at 9.45am and morning tea will be at St Andrew's Anglican Church at 11.15am. For more information contact the Evandale Community Centre on 0437 661 950.

George Town & District Historical Society: Meetings take place at The Grove, Cimitiere Street, George Town. 18 July 2016, **Ron & Zanette Crowden**, *Visit to the Somme*; 15 August 2016, **Des Wootton**, *George Town Airport at Umbrella Flats*; 19 September 2016, **Nigel Anderson**, *The Son of a Launceston Marine Board Foreman Remembers...* Email: info@gtlhs.com.

Tasmanian Historical Research Association: Meetings take place in the Royal Society Room, Custom House, TMAG, Hobart, starting at 8.00pm: 12 July 2016, **Noreen Le Mottee**, *A Tasmanian Life*; 9 August 2016, **Brian Rieusset**, *Who killed Jane Saunders?*; 13 September 2016, Eldershaw Lecture at Dechaineux Theatre, Hunter Street, **Henry Reynolds**, *Andrew Inglis Clark and the origins of Australian nationalism*; 11 October 2016, **Jai Paterson**, *Among Friends: the mid-19th century movement of middle-class Tasmanians to New Zealand*. Email: info@thra.org.au.

Launceston Historical Society

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Deadline

Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by **1 Oct 2016** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.