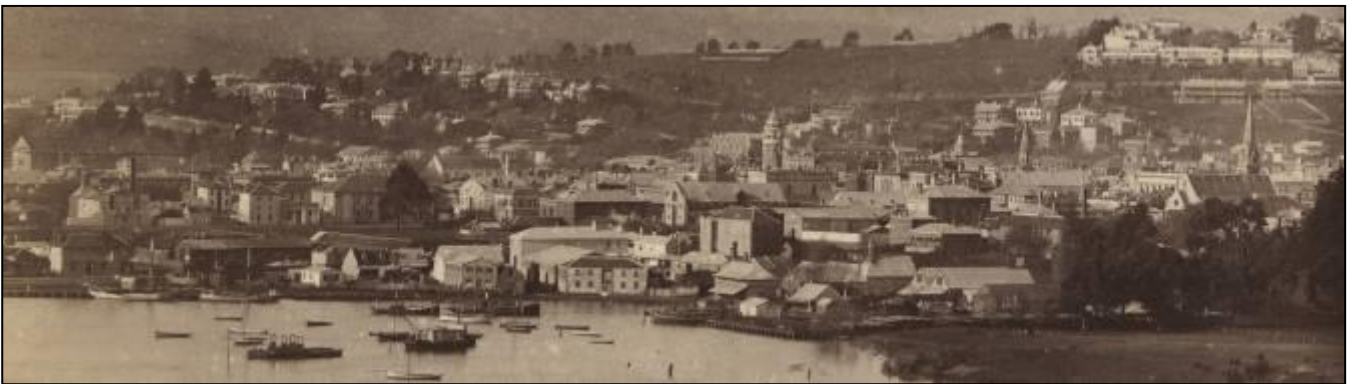




# Launceston Historical Society Inc.

*"Bringing together people since 1988 with an interest in history"*

## Annual Report for year ending 31 December 2016



Alfred Coleman Bonner, 'Launceston from Trevallyn', 12 March 1890. TAHO Launceston, LPIC 21, NTCC Album 6, No 171

**Presented at its Annual General Meeting held at the  
Meeting Room, QVMAG Museum at Inveresk  
Sunday 19 February 2017**

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## Introduction

As President of the Launceston Historical Society (LHS), and on behalf of the members and visitors here today, I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which this event is taking place.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to present the Annual Report of the Launceston Historical Society for the financial year ending 31 December 2016.

## John West Memorial Lecture



*Marion Sargent with Michelle Grattan.*

In March 2016 Michelle Grattan presented the 28<sup>th</sup> John West Memorial Lecture with the topic *The Power of Small Voices: The Struggle for the Senate's Centre*. The lecture was well received by almost 200 people at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre at the University of Tasmania. President Marion Sargent was the master of ceremonies, Ms Grattan was introduced by Dr Greg Hannan from UTAS, and LHS Secretary Prue McCausland offered a vote of thanks.

This year the John West Memorial lecturer will be respected Tasmanian economist Saul Eslake – speaking on *Education, Productivity and Economic Performance* – at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania at Newnham on Thursday 16 March 2017 at 8.00pm.

This prestigious event is held in partnership with the University of Tasmania and with support from *The Examiner*.

## Monthly meetings

After the Annual General Meeting in February 2016 we showed the DVD *Tony Robinson's Tour of Duty: Launceston*. Once again, we have had an interesting and varied number of speakers who gave their time and expertise to present papers at the remainder of our monthly Sunday meetings. These were: Craig Deayton who gave a fascinating talk on the memorialisation of the First World War; John Dent who presented an overview of the Kerry Lodge Archaeology Project; Dr John Paull and Aileen Pike who gave the Fifth Pugh Day lecture on finding Dr Pugh's missing Journal; and Georgia Fountoulaki who told us the story of Mareeno Lucas who built the Princess and Majestic theatres in Launceston.

In August, Dr Susan Aykut enthralled the audience with her lecture on Victorian Turkish Baths in Launceston. In September, we held a History Seminar in conjunction with Oral History Tasmania. The three speakers were: Brad Williams, who gave an illustrated talk on an archaeological dig at the old Launceston Gaol, now Launceston College; Jill Cassidy spoke on how oral history brings our past to life; and Margaretta Pos told us how she wrote the book on her three times great grandmother Elizabeth Fenton. Marion Sargent gave an illustrated talk on the life and adventures

of her great aunt Nurse Amy Sargent. The final speaker for the year was Anne Neale who gave an enlightening talk on the City Park fountain. The Christmas meeting ended with a glass of champagne and Christmas fare.

We appreciate the generous support of the Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk, for providing the meeting room for our monthly meetings. And thank you also to Sound House who capably looked after our audio-visual needs.

### **Spring Excursion**

In November, a busload of members enjoyed our annual excursion. The first stop was at Chudleigh for morning tea and a fossick around the old Anglican Cemetery with its huge acacia tree. At Mole Creek Shirley Stephens gave us a talk on the history of R. Stephens Honey factory. After lunch at the Mole Creek Hotel we visited 'Boy' Miles' Liena Hut. At Deloraine we admired the Yarns Artwork in Silk and the Folk Museum. Thank you to Terese Binns who once again drove the Veterans and Community Bus.

### **Archaeology Group**

John Dent arranged an Open Day at the archaeological dig at the Kerry Lodge overseer's cottage on 2 April 2016. More than one hundred people observed the archaeological team at work, led by Eleanor Cassela. On 6 October John supervised a survey of the surrounding area, with a group of members finding several sites of archaeological promise. Some of these will be excavated at Easter in 2018.

### **History Prize**

To foster an interest in history amongst young people the Society awarded a total of \$2,366 in prize money to students in 2016.

The LHS History Prize for primary school students received 84 entries. The six participating schools were: Glen Dhu, Riverside, Waverley and Mowbray Heights Primary Schools and St Thomas More's and Sacred Heart Catholic Primary Schools. The judges, Carol Fuller and Rebecca Phillips, awarded 16 prizes of vouchers totalling \$666 from Petrarch's Bookshop. Thank you to Jenny Gill for creating and printing the certificates. Thanks also to Mayor Albert van Zetten who presented the prizes and certificates at the Town Hall on Thursday 24 November.

The Ratcliff Prize for History of \$200 was awarded to the following students: Phoebe Meyer, Launceston College; Emma Vipond, Newstead College; Heather Collins, Scotch Oakburn College; Isaac Degetto, St Patrick's College; and \$100 each to Thomas Watson and Nathaniel Nguyen, Launceston Church Grammar School; and Ryan Li and Ruth Strong from the Launceston Christian School.

The annual \$500 Launceston Historical Society - Dr Marita Bardenhagen History Prize was awarded to first-year university student Zac Howard.

## **Community Outreach**

The Society has advised individuals and community organisations in various ways throughout the year. These include: an interpretation plan for the City of Launceston; Launceston College art project on characters of Launceston; *The Examiner* seeking input into historical articles for the newspaper and advertising meetings; and numerous local and family history requests. Marion spoke to a local Liberal group and St John's Church Older Boulders. The CH Smith development has created much interest; Marion Sargent, Robyn Jones and other members submitted comments. Hundreds of people are following us on Facebook and we have had some great feedback on our website. Thank you to City Park Radio and ABC Radio for advertising our meetings and interviewing speakers.

## **Executive Committee**

The extent of events and activities conducted by the Historical Society would not be possible without the many hours of work performed by a dedicated team of volunteers. Thank you to the other members of the Executive Committee who have helped to make this Society what it is today.

In February 2016, the following committee members were re-elected: Marion Sargent, President; Catherine Pearce, Vice-president and Minute Secretary; Leonie Prevost, Treasurer; and Prue McCausland, Correspondence Secretary.

The other committee members were: Robyn Jones; Steve Jones; Sue McClarron, our Heritage Representative with the City of Launceston; Terry Neal; and one new member, Rebecca Phillips.

## **Membership**

The Historical Society had 129 financial members at the end of 2016. This included 20 new members who joined throughout the year.

## **Publications**

I thank Nick Pedley at Peter Gutwein's office for printing the *Newsletter*, *Annual Report* and notices free of charge.

The Fuller Papers (1836-1847) will be published online this year. Thank you to John Dent, Anne Bartlett, Jenny Gill and Barbara Valentine for your many years of work on these recollections.

## **Conclusion**

Once again, thank you to my dedicated Committee whose expertise and energy ensures that this Society functions well. And thank you also to those regular members and guests who faithfully support the Society's activities by attending our meetings, lectures and excursions. We can all look forward to another year of interesting and inspiring talks and activities in 2017.

Marion Sargent  
President 2016