



Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 163

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Bringing together people with an interest in history

Beaconsfield History

On 15 April 2018 Nigel Burch gave a most interesting talk on the social history of Beaconsfield. The oldest European relics in the area are the 1816 lime works. Four towns developed around iron works, but they have now all gone. The Dally family started a gold rush at Brandy Creek; Beaconsfield grew from tents to huts, hotels and churches. Family life was good; there was plenty of work, friends and food. As a visitor wrote in 1880, "It seems a hive of industry".



Nigel Burch delivering his talk on Beaconsfield.



Denis Lake with a half-sized Windsor chair.

The Celebrated Peddle Chairs

On 20 May 2018 Denis Lake presented an engaging talk and demonstration on what is a Peddle chair – and how to spot a copy or a fake! George Peddle and his brother-in-law Harry Hearn made the Peddle chairs in Tasmania. They are Windsor chairs of nine different designs made from green blackwood. They have a solid dished out seat, with the legs and back spindles fitted into the seat. George started making the chairs at Austin's Ferry in 1884. He later moved to High Street, Launceston, then to Nabowla where he could source the timber needed. Harry joined him, making his chairs with slightly different turnings of the legs. The chairs graced many a waiting room at railway stations throughout Tasmania. When the stations closed the chairs were sold and found their way into the kitchens of private homes.

Denis' passion for the chairs led him to buying an old treadle lathe and crafting his own Windsor chairs. He began with making them in half-size, as shown here. Denis also wrote a comprehensive book on the subject called *The men who made the celebrated chairs: Windsor chair-making in Tasmania*.

Kerry Lodge Archaeological Project

Report by John Dent



The cottage being excavated at Kerry Lodge.

The excavation part of the dig at Kerry Lodge was a great success. A total of eight trenches were dug. Two trenches over the location of the 1830s Hobart Road failed to find it, and three trenches over the location of the timber convict accommodation failed to find its location. The kitchen trench was supervised by LHS member Angie McGowan and she discovered much more about the building of the kitchen and the various phases of the building. In the last couple of days of the dig, in the earliest under floor deposits, a most unexpected find occurred. The discovery was revealed at the lecture on 13 May ... it was exciting! (see below)

The two trenches over the cottage revealed the fireplaces and hearths at both ends as well as the footings for the floorboards in the cottage.

More of the salmon coloured plaster was revealed in both rooms. Some of the artefacts discovered included buttons and marbles as well as the usual nails, china and window glass. Some early broken glass jars and shell edge china will help to date the early under floor deposits to around the 1830s. Many broken pipes and pipe stems were recovered with a couple of intact pipe bowls. A comb and a toothbrush were amongst the more unusual discoveries as well as more gun flint and a heel from a shoe. A metal hammer and a hook and chain were some of the many metal items found.

These artefacts were cleaned and catalogued by Eleanor Casella and volunteers at UTAS.

Thank you to all LHS members, old and new, who helped with the dig. We had volunteers from the UK, USA, Germany, NSW, and from all parts of Tasmania. Over 1,500 volunteer hours were contributed by LHS members. The dig received extensive media coverage and more than 300 people attended the two public open days. It will help answer a lot of questions about early convict work sites in northern Tasmania and potentially could be of national significance. LHS wish to sincerely thank Eleanor Casella for allowing LHS volunteers onto her dig site and for the way she included everyone and taught us all so much about archaeology.

Lecture by Professor Eleanor Casella and Dr Karen Hall



John Dent, Eleanor Casella and Karen Hall at the lecture on Kerry Lodge.

Professor Eleanor Casella and Dr Karen Hall presented a public lecture on Sunday 13 May 2018 to 70 people at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre at UTAS, Newnham.

They revealed an exciting find under the floor level of the more recent cottage – the original 1835 convict workshops of the blacksmiths and stone cutters!

The photo above shows the blackened floor where ferrous slag material was found. The other room had stone flakes chipped off the dolerite used to build the Kerry Lodge Bridge.

Sunday 17 June 2018 – 2pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk

Pugh Day Lecture: Dr Colin Chilvers: *Anaesthesia and Overseas Aid*



In a very simplistic sense Dr William Russ Pugh travelled from England to Launceston in 1835 to ultimately bring overseas aid in the form of the administration of the first general anaesthetic for surgical procedures in Australia.

Australians are fortunate in that they have access to safe, effective and high quality anaesthesia and surgery. Such care is not available in many other countries.

Tasmanians have an extraordinary record of providing Anaesthesia Aid to other countries around the world.

The lecture will cover the history of aid from Tasmania and highlight the work of Tasmanian Anaesthetists who volunteer to work and teach with different organisations in a variety of countries.

The speaker will present his own experiences with the Australian Agency for International Development and with the international aid agency Médecins Sans Frontières.

Dr Pugh, of course, will have a place in the story.

Dr Colin Chilvers AM is the current Chair of the Tasmanian Regional Committee of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists. He has worked as a Specialist Anaesthetist in Launceston for 22 years, including a period as Deputy Director of the Department of Anaesthesia at the Launceston General Hospital.

He has enjoyed a long-term involvement in the education and examination of trainee Anaesthetists as well as the organisation of continuing education for Anaesthetic Specialists. He has published 14 scientific research papers on anaesthesia, two of which have won national awards.

Colin is interested in history and was a contributor to the book *Launceston General Hospital: celebrating 150 years of caring* and presented three lectures on 'Anaesthesia in WW1' as part of the LGH Historical Committee seminar series commemorating the Centenary of the Great War.

He has participated as a volunteer on 10 overseas aid missions. (Photo courtesy of *The Examiner*)

Sunday 15 July 2018 – 2pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk

Dr Alison Alexander: *The O'Connors of Connorville*



Intelligent, impatient and forthright, **Roderic O'Connor** arrived in Van Diemen's Land in 1824 with next to nothing, and made a fortune through wool. He left a wonderful description of the island in his Land Commissioners' Journals, and from 1829 to 1836 was responsible for building the island's roads and bridges, an extremely difficult job. His story encapsulates the island's history in the 1820s and 1830s.

Born and educated in Tasmania, **Alison Alexander** has written or edited 32 books on many aspects of Tasmania's history. Best known is *The ambitions of Jane Franklin: Victorian Lady Traveller* which won the National Biography Award in 2014. Alison also edited *The Companion to Tasmanian History*. At present she is completing *Duck and green peas for ever: the search for utopia in Tasmania*, and would appreciate any comments on this theme.

Advance notice of LHS activities for 2018

Launceston Historical Society meetings are held at the meeting room, Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk, on Sundays at 2pm, unless otherwise notified.

- 19 August** Steve Radford, *Captain Samuel William (Bill) Barrett*
- 16 September** Evan Livingstone-Thomas, *Stone tool use in Eastern Tasmania: Tracks across the lithic landscape*
- 21 October** 30th Birthday + Karin Le, *When Multiculturalism came to Launceston*
- 5 November** Spring Excursion to Strathmore and Patterdale, Monday long weekend. There are only a few vacant seats left on the bus. BYO lunch. See more details below.
- 18 November** Dr Stefan Petrow, *Tasmanian Anzacs: Tasmanian soldiers and World War One*

Members' Column

New members:

The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members, largely thanks to John Dent who recruited lots of diggers from the Kerry Lodge Archaeological Project: Rafe & Elena Addison, Luke Agati, Jeanette Ashdown, Susan Bell, John Denne, Ian Edmondson, Raelie Fineran, Denis Gojak, Kenneth Gregson, Natalie Hart, Ruth Heatley, Cindy Hunt, Richard Jobson, Helen Lerner, Shirley Ann Linnell, Dominique McMahon, Kirsty Mills, Peta Newman, Melissa Riley, David Saner, Genevieve Schultz, Kylie Seretis, Vicki Shurburd & family, Peter & Deb Spicer, Mary Stary, Henry Sutczak, Jonathan Voss, Darren Watton, Patricia Willoughby and Bill & Anne Witherden.

Membership Fees + charge for non-members to attend meetings:

From January 2018 membership fees were raised from one to five dollars in most categories. We have printed a new membership form and uploaded it on our website: [Membership Form.pdf](#)

We are now charging non-members \$4.00 to attend our Sunday meetings and enjoy afternoon tea.

LHS Archaeology Group:

Contact John Dent: john.dent@pda.com.au.

Spring Excursion to Strathmore, Nile Chapel and Patterdale



Monday, 5 November 2018. Take this rare opportunity to visit the historic homes, gardens and chapel at Strathmore, Deddington and Patterdale.

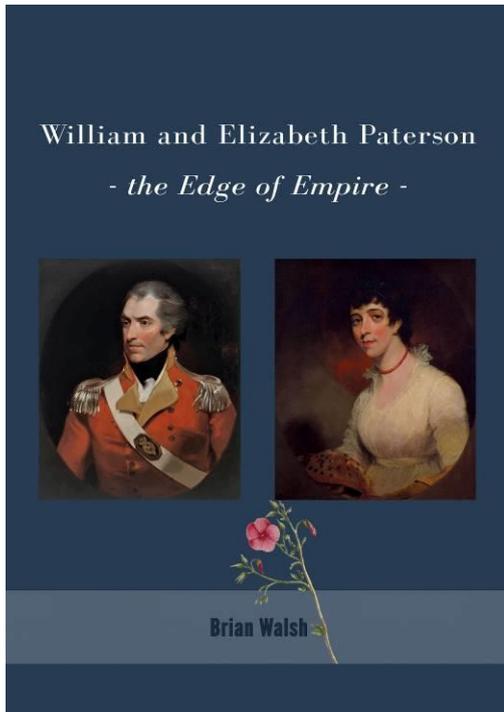
The Veterans and Community bus will leave the RSL car park, Eardley Street, South Launceston at **10am**. Park your car there for the day. We expect to be back in Launceston by 5pm. We will travel to **Strathmore** spending time in the beautiful gardens before enjoying a BYO lunch (sandwiches and thermos?) at the tables and chairs provided for our use. Bring your keep-cups!

A short stop at the **Nile Chapel, Deddington** will allow us to view the interior of this 1842 gem and visit colonial painter John Glover's grave.

Lastly, experience Glover's 1832 home of **Patterdale**. Marvel at the restoration that is taking place, including the re-construction of the Exhibition Room and admire the views. Good walking shoes are recommended, as there is some rough ground.

\$50 per person. Please pay soon, as there are only a few vacant seats left on the bus. Pay Leonie at a Sunday meeting, post a cheque or make a direct payment to CBA, BSB 067 003 A/C No. 2804 8638.

New Book on Launceston's founder



A new book has shone fresh light on Launceston's founder, William Paterson. The book titled *William and Elizabeth Paterson – the Edge of Empire* was written by a new member of our Society, Dr Brian Walsh, and recently released in the town of Paterson in New South Wales. In 2017 Brian spent several days in Launceston and George Town and received valuable assistance from John Dent and others.

William Paterson was the longest serving official during the first two decades of European settlement of eastern Australia. He commanded the regiment nicknamed "the Rum Corps" and led a rebel government after his officers deposed Governor Bligh in a military coup.

The book devotes a chapter to the Patersons at Port Dalrymple and Launceston. It also chronicles William's achievements and weaknesses as a botanist, officer and acting governor. It challenges long-held views of the Rum Corps and Rum Rebellion and reviews this turbulent period from the Paterson perspective. Paterson became Australia's first Fellow of the Royal Society, Britain's peak body for the advancement of science. Today his contribution is commemorated by a plant genus and more than 20 species named in his honour.

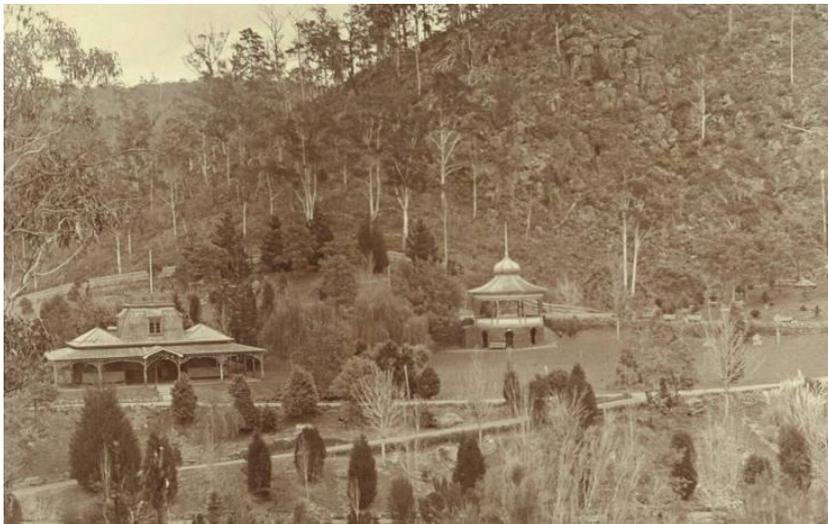
Elizabeth Paterson was an intelligent, high-ranking colonial woman who made her mark in a male-dominated society and rode out the political storms that surrounded her husband. Elizabeth and her friend Anna King established the Sydney Female Orphan School, becoming the first women in Australia to manage a public institution. Today, part of Elizabeth Paterson's land grant has become the Launceston suburb of Youngtown.

The 224-page book can be purchased by mail order through Paterson Historical Society (www.patersonhistory.org.au) or contact John Dent for local arrangements: john.dent@pda.com.au. Cost is \$45 plus postage.

From the Past

Tasmanian Democrat, Friday 21 February 1896, page 2

Cliff Grounds.



Tea house and rotunda, Cliff Grounds. TAHO, LPIC 50-31-1-25

The Cataract Gorge on Thursday night had its uniform on, and the rocks resounded to the strains of military music and the plashing of the overflow from the picturesque old wooden water-race. The Garrison Band occupied the new rotunda, and made the welkin ring with ricocheting blasts of brass-bound demi - semi - quavers; and lovers canoodled in rocky quambies. All the leading vocalists of the city trilled in tremulous tones as the fairy lamps swung to and fro in tune to the rhythmic melody.

Mr Morris (Charlie of that ilk) sang "A warrior bold" in a style that almost made one believe he meant every word of it. Mrs Mitchell, Miss Gee, Miss Wilkinson, Miss Grant, and Mr McNamara did their successful best to add to the splendiferousness of the entertainment.

Our History

These stories on Launceston's history have been contributed by our members. You are welcome to send articles of 420 words, with four landscape pictures, to the president marionsargent@bigpond.com. Read the stories in *The Sunday Examiner* or on [Facebook](#).

No	Date	Page	Author	Title	Topic
19	8 Apr 2018	18	Marion Sargent	A clean and modern burial	Carr Villa Cemetery
20	15 Apr 2018	16	Marion Sargent	Kains launches into retail	Kains hulk & store
21	22 Apr 2018	16	Marion Sargent	Tasmania a prison again	Italian POWs on Tas farms
22	29 Apr 2018	18	Marion Sargent	The evolution of the local	River View Hotel
23	6 May 2018	17	Jenny Gill	A sacred supper of sorrow	St John's mosaic
24	13 May 2018	19	Kelli Schultz	Spiritual heart now quiet	Launceston's Synagogue
25	20 May 2018	17	Marion Sargent	A forgotten resting place	Jewish Cemetery
26	27 May 2018	15	Jenny Gill	Little shop of pure delight	Old Umbrella Shop
27	3 June 2018	12	Jenny Gill	A designer to the divine	Alexander North & churches
28	10 June 2018		Marion Sargent		Power Station Path

Other items and events of interest

Oral History Tasmania: will be holding a seminar between 10.30 and 2.30 on Saturday 4 August in the meeting room, Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk. The speakers and topics are:

Anthony Black, *Glimpses: stories from the Tasmanian Archives and how to do it*

Dr Tony McCormack, *Stories of farmers in the Evandale municipality*

Rena Henderson, *Bunny Busting: The Life of Doug Brooks in pest control*

The cost is \$30, or \$25 for students. Prior registration is essential. For further information and a registration form go to <http://oralhistorytas.org.au/comingEvents.html>. Enquiries president@oralhistorytas.org.au; Jill Cassidy 0418 178 098; Lana Wall 6391 1086.

George Town & District Historical Society: Meetings take place at The Grove, George Town. 18 June 2018, Kevin Ellis, *Wheel Factory*; 16 July 2018, Lighthouse Writers Group presentation. Email: info@gtdhs.com.

Tasmanian Historical Research Association: Meetings take place in the Legacy Function Hall, 159 Macquarie Street, Hobart at 8pm. 12 June 2018, Raymond Arnold, *A Tasmanian Life*; 10 July 2018, John Wadsley, *Unrelenting sadness: Stories from the Soldiers Memorial Avenue, Hobart*. Website: <http://www.thra.org.au>; Email: info@thra.org.au.

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Deadline

Items for the next *Newsletter* should be sent to the editor by **1 August 2018** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.

Newsletter printed by courtesy of Peter Gutwein MP, Liberal Member for Bass.