



# Launceston Historical Society Inc.

## Newsletter No 168

June 2019

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

*Bringing together people with an interest in history*



### **Louisa Anne Meredith**

On 14 April 2019 Maureen Martin Ferris presented a fascinating account of the life of Louisa Anne Meredith, née Twamley. Louisa was not amused when her uncle George Meredith asked her to be a governess to his children in Van Diemen's Land. But letters and objects her cousin Charles Meredith sent back to England piqued her adventurous, restless and enquiring spirit. They married in 1839 and set out for New South Wales, before moving to Little Swanport, VDL in 1840. Charles was not a good manager or businessman, so they moved often seeking new opportunities. Although Louisa regretted leaving England, she found solace in her keen observation of the plants and animals of her new homeland. In 1878 she was a co-founder of the Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Her memory lives on in her 29 beautifully illustrated books, and four each of pamphlets, songs and journal articles published between 1835 and 1891. Maureen is pictured at the left with a copy of the re-published book *Some of my Bush Friends in Tasmania*.

### **Road and Probation Stations in Northern Tasmanian**

John Dent delivered a fascinating talk on 19 May 2019 to a full house. His amended topic on convict stations revealed the 27 that he has identified so far in Northern Tasmania. Road and probation stations set up over a 30-year period from the 1830s housed the convicts building the roads. As work on the roads progressed a new station established farther along the line of road enabled the men to walk to their work sites. The existing plans of stations show that they were of a rectangular shape with the superintendent's house located about



50 metres from the convicts' barracks. The sites are difficult to find as they were: often named after a near-by farm; depicted incorrectly on maps; mostly constructed from timber; built over by towns; materials removed for use in new buildings; ploughed over and farmed; destroyed during later road works or by bushfires. John would appreciate help in identifying, researching and documenting the road station sites before developments obscure them forever.

**Sunday 16 June 2019 – 2pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk**

**Eighth Pugh Day Lecture, in conjunction with the LGH Historical Committee**

**Professor Paul Myles, *A vexed history of laughing gas: A cycle out of depression***



**Paul Myles** is Professor and Director of the Department of Anaesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne, and at Monash University, Australia. He is an Australian National Health and Medical Research Council Practitioner Fellow, and Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Science; an Editor of the *British Journal of Anaesthesia* and an Editorial Consultant for *The Lancet*. He has published more than 300 articles, and been awarded more than 25 NHMRC grants totalling more than \$35 million. The main focus of his research has been on patient quality of recovery, avoidance of postoperative complications, and large multicentre trials in perioperative medicine. In 2017 he received the Excellence in Research Award from the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

**Sunday 21 July 2019 – 2pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk**

**Duncan Grant, *Small churches of Northern Tasmania***



**Duncan Grant** spent 20 years at St Patrick's College Launceston as a senior teacher of Modern History and Ancient History (Rome) and Studies of Religion. He completed Honours and Masters degrees (History) at the University of Cape Town with a focus on urban history. He taught Economic History at the University of Cape Town and 'History Method' at Rhodes University (Grahamstown). He has an interest in curriculum development and designing courses for the study of local and regional history for high school students. Duncan now pursues history as a hobby and has a particular interest in historical buildings of any type and combines this with amateur photography.

**ABSTRACT:** Since the settlement of Tasmania approximately 1200 churches have been built. Each of these churches feature in Duncan's "blog" – "Churches in Tasmania". He uses the blog and social media to highlight the place and importance that 'church' and religion once held in Tasmanian society.

The blog approaches each church as a lens through which to appreciate aspects of life of rural and urban communities. The local church was a place that transmitted values and culture; channelled knowledge of the outside world; bonded communities; empowered women; fostered education; reflected status; reinforced class and sectarian interests; and formed a defence against perceived social threats and ills.

Duncan's presentation will highlight a few of the lesser known, 'smaller' and 'forgotten' churches in Launceston and the surrounding region and explore how some of these buildings contribute to our understanding of the past.



**The Youngtown Primitive Methodist with former Craythorne Road Methodist church in the background.**

***Launceston Examiner, 29 September 1859***

**PRIMITIVE METHODISTS.** Their first Connexional Chapel in this colony, at Young Town, will be opened for divine service on October 9<sup>th</sup> instant, when the Rev. J. Langham and others are expected to take part in the dedicatory services. The aid of a generous public is respectfully solicited.

***Launceston Examiner, 16 October 1875***

**CRAYTHORNE WESLEYAN CHAPEL,** West Tamar. Mr Thomason's tender for the erection of the above church has been accepted. The work will commence immediately.

## Advance notice of LHS activities for 2019

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

- 18 August** Nick Brodie, *topic to be advised* & Kristyn Harman, *The Global Flow of Convicts Transported from New Zealand to Van Diemen's Land*
- 15 September** Tony Marshall, *Edward Abbott senior & junior & Launceston connections*
- 20 October** Lynette Ross, *Government Cottage in City Park*
- 4 November** **Spring Excursion to Oatlands on the Monday of the long weekend**
- 17 November** Jill Cassidy, *Writing the history of Deviot*

## Members' Column

**New members:** The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Bobbie Childs, Rod Cuthbert, Vicki Dewsbury, Mary Dufour, Delia Ratcliff and Jillian Weston.

**Membership Form + charge for visitors to attend meetings:** A membership form is available on our website: [Membership Form.pdf](#). Sunday meetings are free for LHS members, and \$4 for visitors. A delicious afternoon tea is served after the talk.

**Spring Excursion to Oatlands:** Save the date, Monday 4 November for our excursion to Oatlands. We will enjoy the hospitality of the Oatlands District Historical Society at their excellent museum, with morning tea and a tour of the town included. After lunch (own arrangements) Brad Williams and Louise Zarmati will explain the archaeological dig and restoration project at the military precinct. Don't miss the opportunity to see for yourselves the work that Brad spoke about at our February meeting. The bus will depart from the Eardley Street carpark (behind the RSL) at 9am. More details in the August Newsletter.

**Primary School History Prize:** Primary school students in the Launceston area are encouraged to enter a piece of historical research presented in a variety of formats. Entries for the History Prize are now open, to be submitted by 30 August 2019. More information: <http://launcestonhistory.org.au/activities/history-prize/>

### LHS Archaeology Group:

Contact John Dent: [john.dent@pda.com.au](mailto:john.dent@pda.com.au).

## Lost Paintings – can you help?

Our member Robert Smith is trying to locate these two paintings, probably auctioned off from an estate in Launceston circa 1988-89. The painting of the ship is of the SS *Algitha* that sank in the Bay of Biscay in December 1887. All lives were lost, including Captain William Barwise, who painted the picture of his ship. The portrait is his wife Alice, formerly Clayton, née Kenyon, Robert's great-great-grandmother. If you have seen either of these paintings, please let Robert Smith know on 0428 073 493 or [robbder@bigpond.com](mailto:robbder@bigpond.com).



SS *Algitha*, painting by Capt. William Barwise.



Alice Kenyon, later Barwise



## 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](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com). Read the stories in *The Sunday Examiner* or on [Facebook](#).

No	Date	Page	Author	Title	Topic
71	7 Apr 2019	34	Marion Sargent	Flood of community spirit	1929 flood relief efforts
72	14 Apr 2019	34	Julian Burgess	Designs of value and style	William Coogan furniture
73	21 Apr 2019	32	Jill Cassidy	Past worth talking about	Oral History Tasmania
74	28 Apr 2019	34	Marion Sargent	Factories on the front line	Industrial front during WWII
75	5 May 2019	34	Prue McCausland	Gorgeous escape from city	Denison Gorge
76	12 May 2019	34	Gus Green	City's true price of power	Robert Henry Price
77	19 May 2019	34	Julian Burgess	A tradition of reinvention	Thomas Massey & CH Smith
78	26 May 2019	36	Prue McCausland	The temple of temperance	Launceston's Coffee Palaces
79	2 Jun 2019	34	Jenny Gill	Little part of city heritage	Robert De Little, architect
80	9 Jun 2019		Julian Burgess		WWI peace celebrations
81	16 Jun 2019		Jenny Gill		John Lee Archer, architect

## Other items and events of interest

**National Book Council:** Jill Cassidy will present an illustrated talk on her book *Deviot Talks* at the Launceston Library on Wednesday, 19 June 2019 at 1pm. This will be different from the LHS talk in November. All welcome, free event.

**George Town & District Historical Society:** At The Grove, George Town, Monday, 17 June 2019, 7.30pm, Ross Smith, *QVMAG's Community History Collection*; 15 July 2019, 7.30pm, Lighthouse Writers Group, *More stories from the LWG*. Email: [info@qtdhs.com](mailto:info@qtdhs.com).

**Tasmanian Historical Research Association:** Meetings take place in the Legacy Function Rooms, 159 Macquarie Street, Hobart at 8pm. 11 June 2019, Theresa Sainty, *Palawa Kani Language Program*; 9 July 2019, Libby Prescott, *Female Bigamists Transported to Australia*. Website: <http://www.thra.org.au>; Email: [info@thra.org.au](mailto:info@thra.org.au).

**Friends of St Pauls PlantFest:** Saturday, 5 October 2019, from 9.30am at St Pauls, 35727 Tasman Highway, Springfield, with special guest Jane Edmanson, horticulturalist, author, radio and television personality. Great stalls will offer collectable plants, garden art and accessories, and delicious food.

### Launceston Historical Society

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## Deadline

Items for the next *Newsletter* should be sent to the editor by **1 Aug 2019** at [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com) or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.

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