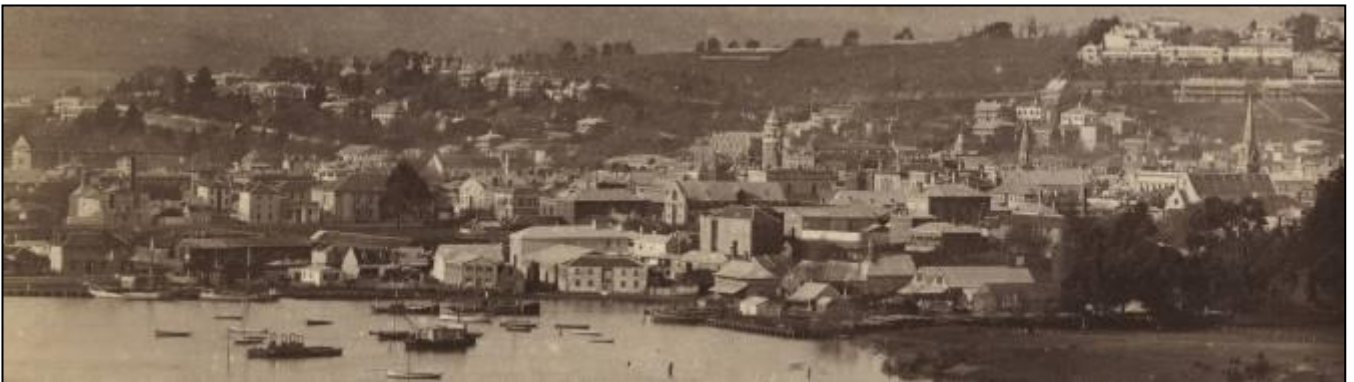


Launceston Historical Society Inc.

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

Annual Report for year ending 31 December 2020



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 21 February 2021**

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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 2020, which turned out to be not such a fantastic year.



Tim McCormack with Don Wing at the lecture.

John West Memorial Lecture

On 13 March 2020 Tim McCormack, Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Tasmania presented the 32nd John West Memorial Lecture with the topic *The Notion of Humanity as a Constraint on the Conduct of War*. This excellent lecture was well received by an appreciative audience at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania. President Marion Sargent was the master of ceremonies, Professor McCormack was introduced by Professor

Dominic Geraghty from UTAS, and LHS Secretary Prue McCausland offered a vote of thanks.

This year the John West Memorial lecturer will be Dr Eric Ratcliff, our member and local psychiatrist, author and artist – speaking on *John West's Launceston and where it went* – at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania at Newnham on Friday 12 March 2021 at 8pm.

This prestigious event is held in partnership with the University of Tasmania.

Monthly meetings

As you all know, 2020 was a year like no other! We managed to hold the Annual General Meeting in February, with guest speaker Mike McCausland telling us about the colourful, controversial, and contradictory William Lushington Goodwin, and his varied career as captain, newspaper proprietor and public figure.

But when the pandemic hit and the whole world went into lockdown down just after the John West lecture, gradually we cancelled the Sunday meetings for the rest of the year.

We appreciate the support of the Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk for providing the meeting room for our one and only meeting in 2020 before closing their doors to the public. And thank you also to Bent Eared Records who looked after our audio-visual needs.

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 keep the Society ticking over during this difficult time.

In February 2020, the following committee members were elected: Marion Sargent (President), Kelli Schultz (Vice-President and History Prize), Leonie Prevost (Treasurer and Public Officer),

Prue McCausland (Correspondence Secretary), Catherine Pearce (Minute Secretary), Karin Lê (Publicity Officer), Bradley Wood (History Prize), Sue Bell, Wendy Roberts (Representative on the City of Launceston Heritage Advisory Committee) and Carol Fuller (History Prize). We welcomed one new recruit, James Smith.

The committee continued to meet on the third Sunday of each month, once by Zoom, and then at Prue McCausland's home, enjoying magnificent views of the Tamar Valley. Thank you, Prue, for your generous hospitality. We even had a little Christmas celebration amongst ourselves.

Committee members were privileged to have a guided tour of Haab on Charles, formerly F & W Stewart's jewellery shop, before it underwent restoration, and of *Sotherton*, the amazing home of our member Robert Dusting.



Kelli Schultz with History Prize recipients at Mowbray Heights Primary School.

History Prize

Due to the closing of schools in 2020, we received far fewer entries in our annual Primary History Prize. Nevertheless, we received 29 excellent entries from four schools: Mowbray Heights, Invermay and Glen Dhu Primary Schools and Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School. A total of \$520 in book vouchers from Petrarch's Bookshop was awarded to 11 winners. Every student received a certificate of participation, a volume of *Stories in Stone* by Anne Green and an LHS pencil.

The second Rebecca Phillips Memorial Prize of \$50 was awarded to Nina Brandenburg from Mowbray Heights for her outstanding entry *Thylacines, why did they become extinct?* We did not hold a ceremony at the Town Hall this year, but each child was recognised at their own school assemblies. The entries were displayed at the Launceston Library.

Thank you to Kelli Schultz, Carol Fuller and Brad Wood for organising and judging the awards.

The annual \$500 Launceston Historical Society – Dr Marita Bardenhagen History Prize was awarded to first-year university student Miss Mackenzie Lette.



Spring Excursion to Waddamana

On our most enjoyable Spring excursion on 1 November 2020 a bus and seven carloads of members visited the historic Waddamana Power Station. Chris Tassell provided a guided tour, and we could roam freely around the grounds and the township. The museum was especially interesting, displaying items from by-gone

eras. Steve Radford provided an informative commentary about the places we passed on the way there and back, while Terese Binns capably drove the Veterans and Community Bus. With all the restrictions this year, it was such a relief to be able to hold this excursion.

Archaeology Group

The LHS archaeology group, convened by John Dent, consists of LHS members with an interest in the archaeology of the Launceston area. In the past we have volunteered on an archaeological dig at the Kerry Lodge Probation Station. From time-to-time emails are sent to group members with

news about archaeological projects in the Launceston area. We are continuing to look at opportunities where volunteers can become involved in archaeological projects.

Community Outreach

The Society has assisted individuals and community organisations in various ways throughout the year. Due to the virus only two articles were published in *The Examiner's* quarterly magazine *Northern Exposure* in 2020 – one by Nigel Burch, *Bridges of the South Esk* and the other by Marion Sargent, *Ballrooms of romance, glitz and glamour*.

Several members have continued to write articles on various aspects of Launceston's past for the popular series 'Our History' in *The Sunday Examiner*. At the end of December 2020 these numbered 161 and are continuing to be written and published. Thank you to all involved.

Marion Sargent spoke to three different community groups, once by Zoom and twice face-to-face, on LHS and the 'Our History' stories. She also had a chat with Belinda King on ABC Radio about the Influenza epidemic of 1919. We have had numerous local and family history requests. Hundreds of people are following us on Facebook.

Membership

The Historical Society had 157 financial members at the end of 2020, including 31 new people. One of our long-time members, Margaret Deacon, sadly passed away in May 2020. Because we could not offer our usual monthly meetings, we have rolled over financial memberships to 2021.

Publications

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

A sub-committee is working on publishing 100 of the 'Our History' stories in a book, each with a photo. We are about halfway through the first draft but have slowed down in the last couple of months. This should be a popular book, as we have had numerous requests for a compilation of the series published in *The Sunday Examiner* and on our Facebook page.

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 members who have so patiently waited for the Society's activities to start up again. We look forward to a more active year in 2021.

Marion Sargent
President 2020



Eric Ratcliff and Mike McCausland.